



Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries

2010: FACT Year in review

Despite being entirely volunteer-based during 2010, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries continues strong efforts in service, education and outreach to protect and enhance our Alum Creek watershed environment.

FACT conducted twenty service events at over a dozen locations including Westerville, Columbus and Bexley. Make a Difference Day, Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, Ohio River Sweep and other planned service event efforts drew 501 people (1,547 person-hours of labor) who gathered 235 bags of trash (recycling 20% of materials) plus 72 tires, 7 shopping carts and 75 other oversize items. Our volunteers planted 3,240 native trees and shrubs in several city parklands and some public corridors, removed over 2,000 invasive honeysuckle bushes and nine bags full of garlic mustard, and installed 100 feet of trash exclusion fence.

FACT engages the public and other organizations to educate and collaborate. We made six presentations to over 200 people covering backyard conservation practices (e.g., composting) and watershed stewardship. Outreach tabling at ten public and business events reached approximately 2,000 people with our message. Over 15 meetings with other groups this year explored new ways to work together in this time of limited financial resources. We advised Franklin County, Blendon Township, MORPC and community planning efforts on watershed protection, buffer setback requirements, and conservation areas. We worked with a group of businesses concerned about neighboring construction & demolition debris transfer station which was negatively impacting their operations and mutual Alum Creek corridor; and as a result the city of Columbus filed two legal suits.

A FACT bicycle ride on the Alum Creek Greenway Trail in August was repeated, and the traditional River Sweep canoe float in June led to cleaning some new river territory, while creating participant's water-on connections, experiences, and appreciation of Alum Creek.

On October 26 the Franklin County Board of Commissioners formally presented "Conservation Recognition" to FACT for "outstanding efforts to educate and involve residents, businesses, and community groups for stream and water quality protection."

FACT is grateful for our continuing mutually supportive relationships with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department; Keep Columbus Beautiful; the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District; Otterbein, Capital, Ohio Dominican and Columbus State Universities; Rotary groups; Cub Scouts; Battelle Memorial Institute; MORPC; Columbus Outdoor Pursuits; Ohio Environmental Council; Westerville and Bexley cities and schools; Townships of Blendon and Genoa; Little Garden Club; Sierra Club; private businesses and corporate service groups.

The mission of Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) is to preserve and protect the quality and beauty of the Alum Creek watershed and promote environmentally responsible recreation, educational opportunities, and citizen participation at many levels. FACT is a local non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer based organization serving as the environmental steward for the lower Alum Creek watershed within Franklin and Delaware counties.