

# Green TEAM

quarterly newsletter



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SPRING 2019

## a 'tree'mendous season



Spring and summer months bring around a time of new growth. Finally, all of the bare trees will begin to bud and flower! So when is the right time to plant a tree seedling?

March is a good month to plant tree seedlings because the ground isn't as frozen as it normally is during the winter months, but will still allow for root dormancy to safely plant without harming the sapling. Planting ahead of spring allows for the roots to extend further into the soil before they need to produce leaves. Growing a leaf takes up a lot of a sapling's energy! Check out your local nursery for these great native trees below!



## Large Trees

## Small Trees



### Red Maple *Acer rubrum*

Brings color to your lawn year round. Green stems turn red in the winter, new leaves are red-tinted, turning to green. Fall color is a deep red or yellow. Grows 40-60' tall.



### Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

Namesake meaning 'divine fruit' or 'God's pear'. Known for their resistance to disease and pests. One of the last trees to leaf out in the spring. Bears fruits once mature (7-8 years). Grows 8-10' tall.



### Shortleaf Pine *Pinus echinata*

Hardest and most adaptable of the southern pines. Drought-tolerant and slow growing. Bright green needles grow in tufts. Grows 50-100' tall.



### Shumard Oak *Q. shumardii*

A stately tree with beautiful fall colors. Great urban adaptivity. Drought-tolerant and fast growing. Acorns are loved by deer and squirrels. Grows 40-60' tall.



### Paw paw *Asimina triloba*

Small deciduous tree that produces large fruit. Fruits have a sweet, custard flavor similar to banana or mango, commonly eaten raw. Grows 15-20' tall.



### Redbud *Cercis canadensis*

Rosy pink flowers bloom in April. Red-purple leaves change to green, then yellow. Requires full sun or light shade. Medium growth, increasing 13-24" per year. Grows 20-30' tall.



### Dogwood *Cornus florida*

Offers a four-season display of beauty. Produces white or pink flowers at the beginning of spring. Thrives in home yards and grows quickly. Grows 10-25' tall.



### Witchhazel *Hamamelis virginiana*

Small tree/large shrub with fantastic fall attributes. Yellow flowers bloom from Oct-Dec. Prefers moist soil but tolerant to a variety of conditions. Grows 15-30' tall.

# pollinating flower power!



Spring time in Tennessee is rapidly approaching! If you are wanting to expand your garden this season, look for flowers that local pollinators love. Give our butterflies, bees, bats, and hummingbirds a beautiful pollinator garden while you enjoy the view!



Here are some tips to support pollinators:

1. **Plant your pollinator garden with native plants** - plant flowers in clumps instead of individual flowers. Use a variety of colors, different pollinators like different colors. Plant **milkweed** for monarch butterflies; monarch caterpillars will eat the leaves and adult females will lay their eggs on them.
2. **Avoid or limit using pesticides** - some pesticides are harmful to pollinators. Minimally apply pesticides as a problem solution, not a preventative, or try to remove pests by hand when possible. Do NOT apply pesticides near water sources. Avoid applying when flowers are in bloom and try to choose a pesticide specific to the target pest.
3. **Provide a nesting habitat** - a flourishing garden can be home to over 2,000 different insects, so give them a place to live! **Insect hotels** provide a habitat for native bees, beetles, ladybugs, and spiders. Setting up a bat house or two around your garden will provide these nocturnal pollinators a safe place to roost (that's not your home!). Bats are not just important pollinators, but mosquito munchers as well. A little brown bat can eat over 1,000 insects a night!
4. **Provide a water source** - keep a shallow dish or bowl of water in your garden as a drinking supply for pollinators. Don't forget to place small stones or sticks in the dish for them to land on! Replace water once a week to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs or algae growth.



PLANTS FOR  
POLLINATORS

[plantsforpollinators.com](http://plantsforpollinators.com)





## Stream assessments & outfall inspections

Stormwater Management staff is finishing up their latest round of stream assessments and outfall inspections around the City to identify potential threats to water quality.



### Some things staff will take note of are:

- Channel alterations
- Stream bank erosion
- Exposed pipes and outfalls
- Debris dams or other fish barriers
- Habitat alterations
- In or near stream construction
- Trash dumping

Staff will document and report areas where infrastructure maintenance is needed, infrastructure has failed, or other potential sources of pollution.

This headwall has separated from the main storm line



## Macroinvertebrates, stream habitat, & water quality monitoring

Starting early April, Stormwater staff will begin our yearly analytical monitoring at 16 stations around Franklin, which are monitored every year to help gauge trends in water quality and guide watershed management decisions.

### Macroinvertebrate collection

Macroinvertebrates are aquatic bugs that spend most or all their lives in a stream. They are called *indicators* because certain bugs will be present depending on water quality. Next time you are in a stream pick up a rock that is submerged in flowing water. If you see little bugs moving along the bottom, there is a good chance those are macroinvertebrates!

### Habitat assessment

Habitat assessments are completed to assess the condition of the habitat around a stream. Stormwater staff will score a variety of factors, such as the stream substrate, sedimentation, shelter for fish, channel alterations, stream flow and depth, bank stability, and surrounding vegetation.



### Water quality monitoring

A water quality probe is used to record different water quality parameters, such as:

- Temperature
- pH
- Conductivity
- Dissolved oxygen
- Turbidity



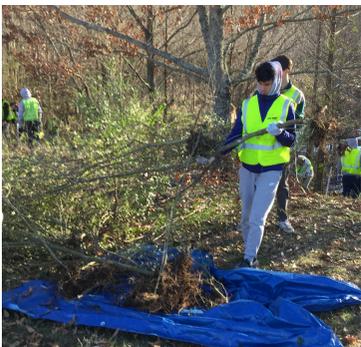
## Dry Branch Wetland Restoration

Stormwater Management has partnered with **Keep Williamson Beautiful** to restore Dry Branch Wetland (located at the intersections of Franklin Rd and Moores Ln) through stream cleanups, invasive removals, and future replantings. To date they have removed over 600lbs of trash from Dry Branch and organized several invasive removals along the wetland. Future plans involve additional invasive removals and native replantings. How awesome! Mid-December and early-January, KWB had two groups of volunteers rally for an invasive removal, the most recent being 150 AP Environmental Science students from **Brentwood High School**!



So what's an *invasive species*? Invasive species are living organisms that are not native to the surrounding ecosystem and causes harm to the environment, economy, and in some cases human health. Invasive species tend to reproduce quickly and spread aggressively, which makes

it easy for them to take over areas and difficult to remove completely. Invasive species are one of the top threats to endangered species and biodiversity. Two commonly seen and easily identifiable invasive plant species found in Tennessee are **Privet** and **Honeysuckle**.



These species are what volunteers focused their efforts on removing from Dry Branch Wetland. **We want to thank all volunteers for their great work and accomplishments, and send a big thank you to Keep Williamson Beautiful for their work in restoring Dry Branch Wetland!**



**March 23** is 250K Tree Day! Last year we planted 500 trees along the Harpeth River, and this year we are doubling our effort. Bring your shovels and come plant some trees with us!

**March 30** is the Kids Art Festival at Pinkerton Park, stop by to see our local young artists and visit us at our Stormwater booth!

**April 20** is the annual Arbor Day Celebration at Pinkerton Park! Join the fun and bring some native tree seedlings home!

**April 22** we will announce the winner of the 2019 'Only Rain Down the Drain' 5th grade poster contest. The posters will be on display in City Hall!

March 23 250K Tree Day

March 30 Kids Art Festival

April 20 Arbor Day Celebration

April 22 Poster contest!



If you, your family, local business, or community are interested in volunteering or organizing an event for your watershed please contact Stormwater Management

**(615)791-3218**

or email Brittani Perez

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thank you!

That's all for our spring issue. Stay updated for our summer newsletter in **June!**