

OLC Member Outreach

Thursday, September 10, 2020

60

Total Responses

Date Created: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Complete Responses: 55

Q6: About how often do you visit the OLC Preserves? Check one choice for each Preserve.

Answered: 53 Skipped: 7

	FREQUENTLY (ONCE A WEEK OR MORE)	OCCASIONALLY (ABOUT ONCE A MONTH)	RARELY (ABOUT ONCE A YEAR OR LESS)	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Airdrie Forest	17.39% 8	13.04% 6	21.74% 10	47.83% 22	46	3.00
Cool Valley	10.42% 5	10.42% 5	39.58% 19	39.58% 19	48	3.08
Cedar Hollow/Miller	12.00% 6	18.00% 9	46.00% 23	24.00% 12	50	2.82
Diamond Rock	0.00% 0	12.50% 6	33.33% 16	54.17% 26	48	3.42
George Lorimer	22.45% 11	30.61% 15	34.69% 17	12.24% 6	49	2.37
Valley Creek	8.00% 4	24.00% 12	46.00% 23	22.00% 11	50	2.82

Q6: About how often do you visit the OLC Preserves? Check one choice for each Preserve.

Comments

- Getting old, and husband is disabled. We have also moved from Charlestown to West Chester. But we have many happy memories of most of the parks - and have done our share of volunteer work in the past.
- Could not find a legal place to park at Diamond Rock. **CLOSEST PARKING IS ON HORSESHOE TRAIL LOT ON REES ROAD**
- These are awesome resources in our community! Thank you all for the work you do!
- I would like to use Diamond Rock, but I do not see a trail access point.
- Regrettably, I am simply an admirer of the fact that we have these open spaces. I am so grateful to this organization and the special group of volunteers who maintain them.
- A recent visit to Diamond Rock, approaching from the west from Horse shoe trail was very concerning due to the extent of Japanese barberry, and allaria petiolata - garlic mustard, as well as cardamine impatiens - narrowleaf bittercress. Where garlic mustard was, nothing else grew. Let me know if I can help organize a community removal focusing on barberry, the mustards, and perhaps multiflora rosa. This should include an educational component to help landowners recognize these plants in their own properties.
- I would visit more -- and be much more active with Preserve maintenance -- if I weren't working full time.
- In the past I have walked more often but safety is an issue for me.
- Visiting the various preserves is an extra benefit to supporting the mission of the Conservancy. I think we all benefit from just having the environment preserved regardless of whether we visit.
- I tried to visit Diamond Rock but the signs the neighbors had up gave me to believe I would get a police parking ticket by parking there.

Q7: Why do you visit the Preserves? Check all that apply.

Answered: 53 Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To get exercise by walking or running on the trails	75.47%	40
To experience the natural environment	86.79%	46
To walk my dog	28.30%	15
To get fresh air	71.70%	38
As an activity with friends or family	43.40%	23
As an antidote to fast paced everyday life	45.28%	24
To observe wildlife and its habitat	60.38%	32
To help with Preserve maintenance	30.19%	16
To fish in Valley Creek or Cedar Hollow Run	15.09%	8
Other (please specify)	7.55%	4
Total Respondents: 53		

Other

- Bird watching.
- To see what the work parties have achieved.

Q8: Each of the Conservancy Preserves has its special features and charm. If you had to pick one, which would be your favorite? Check just one.

Answered: 47 Skipped: 13

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Airdrie Forest	14.89%	7
Cedar Hollow/Miller	25.53%	12
Cool Valley	10.64%	5
Diamond Rock	0.00%	0
George Lorimer	38.30%	18
Valley Creek	10.64%	5
TOTAL		47

Q8: Each of the Conservancy Preserves has its special features and charm. If you had to pick one, which would be your favorite? Check just one.

Comments

Valley Creek	Less crowded and the river.
Cool Valley	I can walk to it from my home
George Lorimer	It is near my house and has a large parking area.
Airdrie Forest	Love all, best access (personally) to Airdrie
Cedar Hollow/Miller	Actually, Cedar Hollow and Valley Creek are my co-favorites because I can experience woodlands, wetlands, creeks and meadows on each hike.
Valley Creek	It is the closest to me and has a great diversity of habitats
Airdrie Forest	Tough call. My top 3 are very close for different reasons. Airdrie, Diamond Rock, Cedar Hollow.
George Lorimer	It is closest to me, has parking, is large, and needs lot of work.
Airdrie Forest	It provides balance in a location where people can also walk to a major commercial area- Paoli
Cedar Hollow/Miller	It's walking distance from my home. The trails are varied - going past Valley Creek, then through the meadow, then up the hilltop. My second favorite is George Lorimer for similar reasons (although it's a short drive). Cool Valley is also within walking distance

Q9: OLC maintains the Preserves for sustainable natural wildlife habitat and public access. Would you like to see any changes in our approach to that? Check any that you would like to see (or check "Nothing"), and provide specifics or add ideas of your own in the "Other" section.

Answered: 50 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Encourage better visitor compliance with leashed dog requirement	20.00%	10
Add more trails	12.00%	6
Add signage for trees/plants/natural features	30.00%	15
Increase parking (if possible)	6.00%	3
Nothing, the Preserves are well maintained	34.00%	17
Improve trail maintenance (eg signage, overgrowth, surface condition)	16.00%	8
Other Ideas and/or Comments	34.00%	17
Total Respondents: 50		

Q9: OLC maintains the Preserves for sustainable natural wildlife habitat and public access. Would you like to see any changes in our approach to that? Check any that you would like to see (or check "Nothing"), and provide specifics or add ideas of your own in the "Other" section.

Comments

- Maintain wide trails by keeping trails well cut and groomed
- Possible dog bag stand, bolted down trash can. I find bits of trash and bring a wawa bag to pick up but and trash. Also I find dog poop and bring extra bags but wish I didn't have to carry them with me the whole time. Just a suggestion. **WE DO ASK DOG WALKERS TO CLEAN UP; UNFORTUNATELY WE LACK STAFF TO MAINTAIN TRASH SYSTEMS, EXCEPT IN THE LORIMER LOT WHERE VOLUNTEER MANAGER ART BLUMENTHAL DOES A STELLAR JOB.**
- Improved stream maintenance
- Acquire more preserves or a corridor to link the preserves where possible. **ALWAYS ON THE LOOK OUT!**
- Tree fall is nearly blocking Valley Creek in a couple of places in Cedar Hollow and Valley Creek preserves. Possible to remove the big fallen trees in the creek? **WOODY DEBRIS CAN HELP STREAM HEALTH AND PROVIDE FISH HABITAT.** Also, in Cedar Hollow along Valley Creek, there is a two-board "bridge" over a very deep gully. Possible to make this a three-board bridge? **"BRIDGE" HAS BEEN WIDENED**
- Suggest on signs people wear tick prevention clothes, spray with permethrin, or Insect Shield clothes (both not known by many for tick prevention). **KIOSKS DO HAVE TICK AWARENESS POSTERS**
- I loved dogs. I would be OK without a leash requirement, but since there is a requirement, people should adhere to it.
- Need to make sure dirt bikes and ATVs are not able to enter the preserves. This seems to be a new problem in a few of the preserves recently. Airdrie Preserve on the west side below Hollow Road is experiencing erosion problems and could use some TLC.

Q9: OLC maintains the Preserves for sustainable natural wildlife habitat and public access. Would you like to see any changes in our approach to that? Check any that you would like to see (or check "Nothing"), and provide specifics or add ideas of your own in the "Other" section.

Comments (cont)

- Removal of herbaceous and shrubby invasives. **MORE TREE CANOPY WILL HELP IN THE LONG TERM. WE DO CONDUCT SPOT TREATMENTS AND LARGER PROJECTS ARE BEING EVALUATED**
- Trails across the preserves are well maintained and marked in my opinion. The trail downhill towards the Turnpike at Diamond Rock could be more apparent but I think it's more lack of use than anything else. A better parking situation at Diamond Rock, if possible, would also be great (biggest concern is having 2 younger kids walk on Howell Rd). I realize there are constraints to change this and the preserve is great with or without closer parking. The tree ID signs at Airdrie are nice and my kids like reading them as we go. They make for a practical Eagle Scout project.
- Control barberry at Airdrie Preserve, at least 25 feet from trails
- Removal of invasive species - start by using a bush hog in the spring to radically cut back floribunda rose, raspberry, fox grape, etc. **CONTROL LIKELY REQUIRES TREATMENT AS WELL AS CUTTING. DEFINITELY SOMETHING TO WORK ON.**
- Fix erosion in Airdrie **THE NEW LEVEL SPREADER WILL HELP**
- Restoration- Airdrie needs undergrowth. **FALL 2020 PLANTING PROJECT WILL HELP A LITTLE**
- My biggest issue is with Diamond Rock. We've tried to go there but there is no accessible parking. Makes it hard for anyone but local residents to enjoy
- Plant more trees **FALL 2020 PLANTING PROJECT**
- Get that outrageous situation re parking at Diamond Rock straightened out. **AT THE MOMENT, THE REES ROAD LOT IS THE BEST OPTION**

Q10: The Conservancy's mission encompasses the objectives listed below. Please assign to each the importance that you would like to see (subject to opportunity and funding, of course).

Answered: 53 Skipped: 7

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Add land to Preserves	54.00% 27	40.00% 20	6.00% 3	50	6.38
Acquire land for new Preserves	59.62% 31	32.69% 17	7.69% 4	52	6.85
Conduct educational programs (eg: expert-led Nature or Bird walks)	18.37% 9	55.10% 27	26.53% 13	49	3.73
Remove invasive grasses and shrubs (eg: Phragmites, honeysuckle, privet, olive)	54.00% 27	40.00% 20	6.00% 3	50	6.38
Remove invasive vines (eg bittersweet, honeysuckle, grape)	62.75% 32	35.29% 18	1.96% 1	51	7.04
Plant native trees and shrubs	50.00% 25	44.00% 22	6.00% 3	50	6.06

Q10: The Conservancy's mission encompasses the objectives listed below. Please assign to each the importance that you would like to see (subject to opportunity and funding, of course).

Comments

- Grape is not always invasive, almost always native. **WE DO PREFER TO CUT IT, THOUGH: STRESS ON TREES AND ATTRACTIVE TO SPOTTED LANTERNFLY.** Also, native honeysuckle is rare, but good if found.
- Remove big fallen trees partially blocking Valley Creek in Cedar Hollow and (most recently) Valley Creek preserves. **SEE PRIOR PAGES: WOODY DEBRIS GOOD FOR STREAMS.**
- Place honeybee hives in preserves(feral honeybees have been wiped out in this area), I am beekeeper and would provide at cost(about 150 each) **SOMETHING TO CONSIDER**
- Maintain trails for easy walking with children and older individuals. **WE ASK OUR MOWERS TO CUT AS WIDE AS POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH AN ECONOMICAL NUMBER OF PASSES**
- I know Wilson Park is a township park but the OLC volunteers could put a real dent in the invasive vines that are abundant in WP. I am sure that the township Park Board would appreciate the effort--at no cost to tax payers. **WE HAVE PROVIDED INPUT TO THE TOWNSHIP RE ITS WILSON PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

Q11: In general, how can the Conservancy engage better with you and your neighbors? Please rate the following possibilities, and add other ideas or details in the Comments.

Answered: 44 Skipped: 16

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Send more USPS mailings	2.56% 1	20.51% 8	76.92% 30	39	2.74
Send more emails	17.50% 7	50.00% 20	32.50% 13	40	2.15
Utilize neighborhood social media forums	42.50% 17	37.50% 15	20.00% 8	40	1.77
More posts on Twitter and Facebook	22.50% 9	37.50% 15	40.00% 16	40	2.17
More signs in Preserves and kiosks	19.51% 8	41.46% 17	39.02% 16	41	2.20
Host events in the Preserves (when allowed!)	33.33% 14	35.71% 15	30.95% 13	42	1.98
Host social gatherings (when allowed!)	14.63% 6	43.90% 18	41.46% 17	41	2.27

Q11: In general, how can the Conservancy engage better with you and your neighbors? Please rate the following possibilities, and add other ideas or details in the Comments.

Comments

- GoFundMe and Golf Outings to raise money.
- OLC is a gem. Many people are not aware of it, unfortunately.
- Often when I mention visiting one of the preserves to friends they are surprised to hear about them. To the point of this question, awareness could probably be better.
- Add Instagram to your social media menu.
- When you identify a specific opportunity, send the news to the membership and ask for a special one-time contribution. **THIS IS A GOOD IDEA AND MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD TO IMPLEMENT**

Q12: What is your opinion of the following ideas to increase financial resources? Rate those the Conservancy should consider and add comments if necessary.

Answered: 49 Skipped: 11

	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL
Raise membership dues	6.98% 3	69.77% 30	23.26% 10	43
Solicit corporate memberships	55.56% 25	35.56% 16	8.89% 4	45
Identify and obtain more grants	80.85% 38	17.02% 8	2.13% 1	47
Conduct member/resident campaigns for specific projects	47.83% 22	45.65% 21	6.52% 3	46
Host social fund-raisers	25.00% 11	45.45% 20	29.55% 13	44

Q12: What is your opinion of the following ideas to increase financial resources? Rate those the Conservancy should consider and add comments if necessary.

Comments

- Sell honey from beehives placed in Conservancy. Each hive could provide about \$500 in honey sales
- Can people designate OLC as their charity through the United Way?
- The point of social fund raisers would also be for educational purposes, to slowly increase the knowledge of those who enjoy these reserves about the plant and animal species whose lives depend on them. These reserves, and any wildland, is now an Ark of wilderness and health environment surrounded by lands that have been so altered they are no longer recognizable as wild though they might be green and beautiful. A social event's purpose is to increase the sense of a resident's responsibility to take care of these arks.
- I would volunteer to help research and write grant proposals.

Q13: There are many areas in which community members can help sustain the Conservancy. Please let us know if you (or perhaps someone you know) can help in any of the listed areas, either as an ad hoc volunteer, a Committee member or a Board member, and add any details in the Comment box.

Answered: 22 Skipped: 38

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Member development	13.64%	3
Social media management	0.00%	0
Preserve maintenance	72.73%	16
Legal advice	0.00%	0
Grant research and writing	13.64%	3
Accounting	13.64%	3
Administrative	4.55%	1
Educational program leadership	9.09%	2
Other Ideas and/or Comments	22.73%	5
Total Respondents: 22		