



Term: Fall 2020 | Date: November 24, 2020

CAPTURING RUNOFF

The BRWP partnered with the University of Findlay to secure a \$72,447.48 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant through the Lake Erie Protection Fund (LEPF). This grant funding will be used to install a small wetland and riparian forest along the portion of Howard Run which flows through the University of Findlay's main campus.

This is the first phase of a three phase project, which seeks to capture and filter runoff from several campus parking lots. Construction will begin in early 2021, with project completion set for September 30, 2021.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The West Central Ohio Land Conservancy (WCOLC) and the BRWP have some exciting things planned for 2021! A new collaborative effort between our two organizations has resulted in a very exciting video project in the Bluffton area, which will be released in January of 2021. The BRWP received a \$2,500.00 President's Discretionary Grant from the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation to fund this project. A behind the scenes picture can be seen on the next page. Follow us on Facebook for more "sneak peaks"!

PICTURE PERFECT



This year, the BRWP partnered with the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition (SRWC) to

host a watershed-themed photo contest. The winning pictures were displayed at George House Coffee & Tea in Findlay, and at Bailiwicks Coffee Company in Tiffin. We used the winning photos to create a 2021 desk calendar, which will be available for purchase in December!

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME!

The newly restored floodplain on TR 89 in Findlay has had numerous wildlife visitors! The restored floodplain was constructed in November of 2019, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Hancock County Commissioners. Over 2,000 trees were planted to hold and filter floodwaters while providing habitat for wildlife.



Semi-Palmated Plover at the TR 89 wetland. Photo by BRWP board member, Amy Downing

HELPFUL TIPS

This fall, remember to keep your leaves on your lawn! Leaves are one of the greatest waterway pollutants. Leaves left on the road will enter our storm drains via wind or rain. Anything that goes down a storm drain enters our waterways unfiltered. This means that hundreds of pounds of leaves could flow through storm drains to our rivers and streams. As these leaves break down in our waterways, they release an influx of nutrients and organic matter which can cause harmful algal blooms.



Visit us on our website at www.blanchardriver.org or follow us on Facebook.

Feel free to contact us:

Email:
coordinator@blanchardriver.org

Phone: (419) - 889 - 7192

Mail:
P.O. Box 1237
Findlay, OH 45839-1237



FEATURED PHOTOS AND ACTIVITIES



The BRWP was fortunate to have not one, but two interns this year! University of Findlay senior, Jaxon Parrish, worked with the BRWP as an intern this fall. Jaxon worked with Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, to survey the macroinvertebrate communities at several sampling sites throughout the Blanchard River watershed. BRWP intern, Lauren Spaeth, assisted with macroinvertebrate sampling throughout the summer, and completed data analysis. The presence/absence of certain macroinvertebrates indicates the health status of our waterways.

Top left photo: BRWP Fall Intern, Jaxon Parrish, sampling macroinvertebrates in Lye Creek in Findlay, Ohio. Photo by Lauren Sandhu.

Top right photo: "A Lazy Float on a Colorful Day", by Jacob Price. 2020 Photo Contest, 2nd Place Winner

Bottom left photo: Filming day for the WCOLC and BRWP collaborative project. Pictured are Amy Wischmeyer of the WCOLC and videographer Aaron Osborne. Photo by Lauren Sandhu.

Bottom right photo: BRWP Summer Intern, Lauren Spaeth, holding a damselfly at a sampling site in Riley Creek in Bluffton, Ohio. Photo by Lauren Sandhu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

The BRWP's Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, December 10th from 12:00 - 1:00 PM. Please email us at coordinator@blanchardriver.org if you would like to attend.

Membership Renewals

BRWP membership renewals are due by February 1, 2021. Memberships may be paid through PayPal by visiting our website at www.blanchardriver.org, or you can send a check to our mailing address at P.O. Box 1237, Findlay, OH 45839-1237