

## Ecology Project Report

August 2022

Hello! Here are some updates related to the Ecology Project since early June.

1. Volunteers: Sixty Waynflete students and staff plus FFWP volunteers cleared invasive plants along the edge of the Southwest Preserve on June 7th. Many thanks to Public Works for picking up all of the debris. Eleven students and three staff from Mountain Alliance spent the day pulling weeds and clearing the paths in Cliffside. FFWP volunteers installed the new Children's Garden entrance signs and also repaired the pump system for the biofilter pond and stream (more than 50 hours of volunteer time). Volunteers from Strive worked in the Children's Garden two times each week until mid-July; Strive volunteers will return in September. FFWP had several volunteer work parties in the Children's Garden and are planning volunteer events for late summer/early fall.
2. Site management: The Children's Garden has been looking great this summer thanks to volunteers and FFWP staff. Joe Agostino, an SMCC Horticulture student, was hired by FFWP in June and has been working in the Children's Garden. We also hired SMCC Hort. student Jaime Tripp to work in the Cliff Walk Landscape. Head Gardener Alex Donka has been managing the staff and has worked to maintain each site. The Project Canopy plantings will be completed this month. We worked very hard on the appearance of all sites before the governor's convention in July.
3. Friends' birding group: The birding group concluded for the summer with the last meeting on June 15. The group was a big success and we've had many requests to continue; FFWP is considering a fall birding group.
4. Presentations: For FFWP outreach, I gave a presentation in June on using native plants to attract pollinators at Thomas Memorial Library for the Cape Elizabeth Garden Club. I also helped the library with a film screening about native bees and led an invasive plant identification walk at SMCC for the Woody Ornamentals class. Edible plant specialist Russ Cohen led a three-hour workshop in the Park in July in partnership with FFWP and Wild Seed Project. Russ also completed an edible plant inventory of Fort Williams Park. Russ has a small native plant nursery and will be donating plant material to the FFWP this fall. Alex (FFWP) led a tour of the Children's Garden for SMCC's Herbaceous Perennials class and taught students how to identify and maintain summer blooming flowers.
5. Children's Garden signs: FFWP worked with graphic designer Ann Casady to create entrance signs and safety/liability signs for the Children's Garden.

**Thank you!** Andrea