

SW News July 2017 article

The Collins View Neighborhood Association (CVNA) is working with residents to address the problem of speeding vehicles on Palatine Hill Road. During April and June, CVNA has provided neighbors with forty free, bright orange “Vision Zero” signs as reminders to drivers to slow down as they drive through the neighborhood. Look for them as you drive through the Neighborhood.

On May 25, the Collins View Neighborhood Association welcomed the Tryon Creek Watershed Council interested neighbors for a free Watershed 101 workshop. Our thanks to St Mark Church Pastor Barbara for inviting us to use their space for the in-class portion of the workshop, where we learned about local ecology and environmental challenges, like the negative impacts of invasive flora and fauna, as well as the benefits of native plants for wildlife habitat and water quality. Special focus was made to review stormwater and flooding problems in our urban/suburban backyards – Did you know that a rain garden receiving water off of a 500-square foot space can absorb around 13,000 gallons of rain a year! It is also a beautiful addition to a yard, with low-maintenance and pollinator-friendly hardy native plants.



Neighbors and Tryon Creek Watershed Council staff and volunteers then moved to a local site where we worked to remove invasive plants, including English Ivy, Vinca, Laurel, and more. We planted native shrubs and ground-cover, including Spirea, Red Currant, Evergreen Huckleberry, Coastal Strawberry, Oxalis, Bleeding Heart, Yellow Wood Violet, Sword Fern, and False Lily of the Valley. The best part of the day? Experiencing the amazing camaraderie and chemistry among the knowledgeable Watershed volunteers and enthusiastic neighbors as we worked together. (“[Homeowner] loves what we did. We have inspired her to work on the rest of the ivy and vinca...”; “...a great day - including good questions and conversations about why we do this work and how you can make it work on your own property..”; “Terri, thanks so much

for your presentation...I appreciate having a better understanding of what a watershed is and the various ways we affect it and what we can do...”; “It was fun!..”)

Discovering several *Desmognathus* Salamanders and uncovering a partial deer jaw were bonuses!
(Visit tryoncreek.org for more information about watersheds and upcoming free workshops.)

Terri Preeg Riggsby, Interim Council Coordinator, Tryon Creek Watershed Council contributed to this article.

