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The Passion and The Work – *Cortellini*

It is indeed clear to many of us that the circumstances of this early part of the 21st Century are going to impose major change in many aspects of our lives - change that is at once profound and unavoidable. Some will despair over it, some will fight it, some will try to deny it, some will tolerate it, others will embrace it, some will capitalize on it, and some will develop a passion for it in realizing the possibilities for the growth of our human potential. We all will choose our own way. Not choosing is a choice.

Much of the change that needs to come about in order to reverse the environmental damage inflicted by the industrial revolution is the same change that will improve the livability of our cities and the health of our communities.

Sustainability is as much about Community Building as it is about Renewable Energy. It is as much about Social Justice as it is about Pollution. It is as much about our Human connection to our neighbors as it is about Smart Growth. The work falls nothing short of our cultural reinvention.

How do we go about it? "Start where you are, do what you can, use what you have" - Arthur Ashe.

Green Broad Ripple was founded on the principle of Global Change through Local Action - Profound change through modest community projects that help, include, and improve Nature and Community while, at the same time, inventing the New Day. You have a standing invitation to join us.

Green Restaurants - *Brenda Rising-Moore*

The first project Green Broad Ripple Restaurant Group undertook was Phase I Glass of a lofty, yet doable, plan to implement full stream recycling in Broad Ripple Village. Ten restaurants on one Village block, known as Broad Ripple Square, agreed to participate in the process of removing glass from our landfills. Awarded a grant from Coca Cola Company/National Recycling Coalition for fifty tall boy recycling bins, GBR gave each restaurant, shop and participating business the necessary number of bins for in-house use to separate glass from their other waste stream materials.

Drum roll please, the Square is removing 8-9 tons of glass for recycling each month. This amount will be greatly increased now that local residents have been invited to bring their glass to the white roll-off in the Broad Ripple Square alley. Rules are simple: no plates, cups, pottery, mirrors, window or safety glass; just glass bottles and jars of all colors (no lids please). This service is free to us as long as the load is not contaminated by trash or the above non-recyclable material.

Within four months, Green Broad Ripple has received national recognition for coordinating this program. The Glass Packaging Institute located in Washington DC placed our story on their online newsletter in January. See www.gpi.org home page and look for "What's New." Ours is their lead story, Indianapolis Commercial District Launches Bar/Restaurant Recycling .

An MBA student at Ohio State University contacted GBR for information on how Phase I Glass was planned and coordinated. Taking a class on sustainability, his independent study is on glass recycling. He approached Owen Coming in Ohio who led him to our website. We're getting some street cred here people! Stay tuned for the second block in the Village to implement Phase I Glass as well as Broad Ripple Square's Phase II (metals, corrugated cardboard and plastic). If walking and talking to Villagers about promoting the GBR Restaurant recycling initiative appeals to you, please consider volunteering. Many hands make light work.

The Rise Of Urban Gardens - *Morgan Johnson*

Urban gardening is on the rise throughout many communities worldwide. Broad Ripple is one of them. These gardens provide a colorful and useful array of flowers, herbs and vegetables to an otherwise inner-city area. They provide a wildlife habitat as well. Along with beauty, these gardens bring butterflies, birds, insects (both beneficial and sometimes not so beneficial) and people. One cannot help but be drawn to these natural urban spaces. With our Urban Garden initiative, our intent is to draw attention to the Green benefits of locally grown food and the fun and practicality of producing it. Local food sources can be limited. Utilizing even the smallest of urban spaces can create a garden where food can be produced for local people. Last year our gardens produced enough that we were able to sell it to some of the restaurants in the Broad Ripple Village and to Ron Harris at his Locally Grown produce stand at 54 th and the Monon Trail.



We started our first garden on May 31, 2008. Candace had already had the site prepped for us. She had covered the growing areas in newspaper and had Johnny Crockett Tree Services cover the site with mulch. This helped to fight back the weeds and create a clean look. We then planted Roma tomatoes, habañero peppers, jalapeño peppers, banana peppers, okra, scalloped squash, green beans, edamame beans, purple basil, sweet basil, parsley, Swiss chard, kale, cucumbers and flowers. Unfortunately we had a slug problem...[read more](#)

Photo: Johnny Crockett Tree Service prepping the site by *Cortellini*

Member's Gathering - *Morgan Johnson*

Save the Date: It's time to Spring into Green!



Green Broad Ripple will host a member appreciation party on Monday, March 9th as we prepare for the promise of spring and report on our many projects, completed and ongoing. Please join us for an evening of good food and good drink as we convene on the upper deck at the Union Jack Pub-Broad Ripple, 924 Broad Ripple Avenue, 5:30-7:00 PM. The price of \$25.00 includes a personal membership renewal, one free drink ticket and food. We are eager to share our hope for the future. Join us; bring a friend for free... we will make it worth your while. Watch for an e-mail and RSVP information.

Photo: Union Jack Pub by *Cortellini*

Location Sought for Pilot Green Alley – *Cortellini*

Green Alleys is an idea to transform the underutilized alleys of Broad Ripple into new and vibrant walking, living, and gardening spaces. The concept was first brought up in a Gazette article published in July 2007. You can read the article [here](#). Green Broad Ripple has been promoting the idea ever since through its Green Alleys Committee whose members include; Neal Bennett, Conrad Cortellini, Van Kirby, Silvia Spence, and Jeff Tinsley. We are happy to report that recently, the concept has gained some traction. On the fourth of December, 2008, Green Broad Ripple made a presentation to the Public Works Committee of the City Council. We presented all four elements of the Green Alleys concept and also talked about the need to build partnerships between government, grass roots groups, and institutions. The video of the committee meeting is posted at the following link: [Presentation Video](#). The video is 1 hour and 48 min. We came on at about 1 hour and 6 min.

We were very encouraged with how well our presentation was received and our committee is moving ahead with compiling an Action List as requested by Councilman Speedy. Our first task is to select a section of alley suitable as a pilot. If you would like to know more about the selection criteria; have an interest in offering a suggestion; or would like to participate in the planning, please email your interest to info@greenbroadripple.org



Photo: Alley in Broad Ripple by *Cortellini*

ReNature – *Jeff Tinsley*

On January 10th GBR held it's first annual ReNature Your Christmas Tree event. This essentially involved making arrangements with residents in the greater Broad Ripple community to pick up their discarded Christmas tree and transport it to Broad Ripple Park where it was shredded (ReNatured) into mulch. The day was chosen to coincide with SustainIndy's post holiday recycling event. Our goals were 1.) to help reduce the number of trees going to the landfill, 2.) assist those who do not have the means to transport their tree, and 3.) help with lowering our local carbon footprint by reducing the number of vehicles taking trees to BR park. Although this service was offered free of charge we were gladly accepting donations and encouraging folks to join our organization.



Results included making stops at 15 homes where-upon approximately 18 trees and several wreaths were collected. We had several homeowners generously provide a donation. GBR membership applications were left at

each home to give residents the opportunity to become members. We deemed ReNature Your Christmas Tree a success and plan to continue with the event next Christmas.

Photo: Jeff, Neal, and White Truck - by *Patty Cortellini*

Wildlife Habitat – *Cortellini*

Did you know that the National Wildlife Federation has a program that declares yards and other open spaces Certified Wildlife Habitats. It is not too difficult to obtain certification. Basically, one must make provisions for food, water, and cover and places to raise young. The long term upkeep must be done through sustainable gardening practices. You can find out more details [here](#).

Patty (my wife) certified our small yard last year and we have greatly enjoyed seeing a greater number and variety of birds, including hawks, which frequently visit our small yard. It gives us reason to be outdoors and to keep our windows open. We sense a greater connection to nature that exists in abundance even in our urban environment.

I know of only a few other yards in Broad Ripple that are certified Habitats but it is now possible to certify entire neighborhoods. The requirements vary according to population. You can find out more [here](#).

So, why should Broad Ripple Become a Community Wildlife Habitat? It's fun, it will add beauty, it will provide nurturing refuge for wildlife, it will work to restore the natural ecosystems, it will reduce the use of chemicals, conserve energy and water, and improve air, water and soil quality. The most beneficial reason may be that, as we work together to make room for "Gods Creatures", we could well get to know our neighbors.

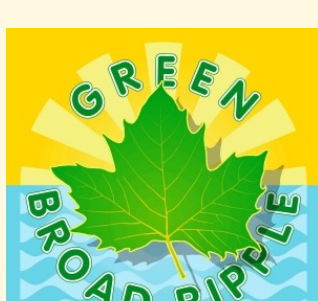


Announcement:

Corporate members of Green Broad Ripple can establish links on the GBR website at no cost. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities for this newsletter are also available. If interested, send us an email. info@greenbroadripple.org

Green Broad Ripple Mission:

To enhance the Greater Broad Ripple Community by promoting a healthful, productive, and fulfilling quality of life through; community education, promotion of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle" practices, and development of a neighborhood "Town Plan" toward a more sustainable future.



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