



Promoting education, protecting the environment and providing enjoyment of our watershed.

Coldbrook Creek Community Newsletter

Volume 9, March 2024

Welcome!

Feel free to share the word about us!

Web: <https://www.lgrow.org/coldbrook-creek>

Email: coldbrookcreek@gmail.com

FB: Search 'Coldbrook Creek Community'

Upcoming Dates All are invited...join us!

Creek testing

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00am: Highland Park

(meet in parking lot at SE corner of park, off Grand Ave.)

11:00am: Aquinas College

([meet in small lot](#) between gym and St. Joe dorm, accessible via campus Fulton entrance)

Aquinas College Workday, Wilcox Trail:

Thursday, April 18, 2024

10:15am-11:45am

12:15pm-1:45pm

(2 work sessions to choose from...or choose both! Signup info [here](#))

Community clean up:

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 8:30am-3:00pm

(Both Highland and Wilcox Parks are clean-up areas. More info [here](#))

Macro-invertebrate testing with **LGROW**

Monday, April 29, 2024

1:00pm: Highland Park

(meet in parking lot at SE corner of park, off Grand Ave.)

3:30pm: Aquinas College

([meet in small lot](#) between gym and St. Joe dorm, accessible via campus Fulton entrance)

Marywood Campus

A portion of Coldbrook Creek flows through the [Marywood Campus](#) of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids, located at East Fulton and Lakeside Dr. NE. The historic motherhouse was recently sold for much needed affordable senior housing because it no longer fits their needs, but the rest of the 34 acre campus remains under the care of the Dominicans...and they are incredible stewards! Here are some examples:

- Native prairie

Creates green infrastructure that improves the environment while being more cost-effective.

- Tree plantings

Creates a "mini forest" habitat.

- Riparian buffer

They will be creating an area of native plants along the edge of the pond.

- [St. Francis sculpture garden](#) and nature trail

A non-denominational, ADA accessible trail along the bank of Coldbrook Creek.

Feel free to visit their beautiful campus to see firsthand all the wonderful things going on there.





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Collaborations (a few of the many)

Adopt-a-park

The Coldbrook Creek Community along with the [Aquinas College Center for Sustainability](#) is in the process of adopting Wilcox Park through the [Friends of GR Parks](#). This is a natural extension of the work the two groups are already doing.

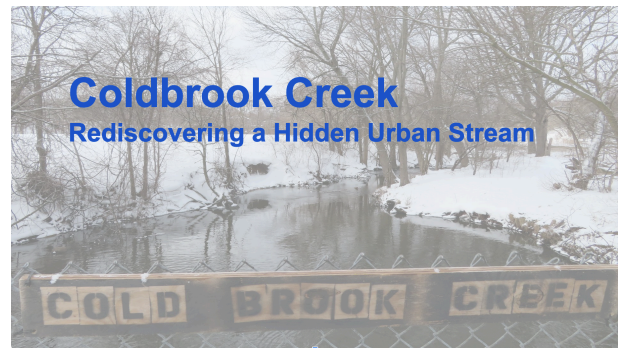
River Narrative and Database Website

Aquinas professor Dr. Kevin Boyd is in the beginning stages of working with students to start both a [River Narrative project](#) and to get the data onto the internet. Part of this will incorporate data, graphics and historical information collected by the Coldbrook Creek Community.

Road Show

The Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids invited us to Marywood to share the Coldbrook Creek: Rediscovering a Hidden Urban Stream presentation. It was well received and was followed by an interesting Q and A session afterward. Plus, they are excellent hosts!

History Presentation



Mary and Pete Lewandoski recently had the privilege of presenting at a day-long event sponsored by [History Detectives GR](#). The title of the presentation was, "Coldbrook Creek: Rediscovering a Hidden Urban Stream." Topics covered included how the creek:

- Was utilized for both household consumption and community fire protection.
- Was enjoyed as a source of recreation.
- Was culverted as the city grew.

History Detectives GR archives presentations, so if interested you can view the slideshow presentation [here](#).



Chip in!

Last year a new path was created on the east edge of Wilcox Park, part of which goes along the bank of Coldbrook Creek. The path was the result of a lot of planning and work by many groups, the culminating event being a work day to spread wood chips on the path.

Well, the trail is in need of some more wood chips! We will be doing this with Aquinas College on April 18 (see info above). Feel free to join us!

Having clear paths along streams and other sensitive areas makes sense, especially in our urban setting where many people may be walking and using the area. By helping to develop these trails you are allowing the community to enjoy the environment, while at the same time allowing that environment to flourish without being disturbed.