



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

Coldbrook Creek Community Newsletter

Volume 3, February 2020

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'

Did you know...

...that the mouth of Coldbrook Creek, near Canal Park on Monroe, has a bit of history?

The area was once much more difficult to traverse than it is today. According to C.C. Chapman's "History of Kent County", the area north of Pearl was "somewhat marshy, kept wet by the springs from the hills above". However, nearer to the creek and inland a bit was a "sand bluff as steep as the sand would lie...descending by a nearly uniform slope to Coldbrook".

The mouth of the creek was also the sight of a violent crime, perhaps reflective of the struggle to settle the area. Treaties with the federal government proved controversial for members of the local Ottawa, some working with early settlers, some not. Per treaty conditions, stipends to tribe members took place in Grand Rapids, thus many converged along the river periodically. According to an historical article from the GR Press dated 8-13-1901, on one such occasion "a quarrel over the treaty" broke out between Chief Kewaycoosheum and Wasogenaw. The chief ended up dead, "the scene of the crime was near the mouth of Coldbrook creek."

Ah, if the mouth of Coldbrook Creek could talk.

Coldbrook Creek Community Meeting

Come meet with us on Monday, March 23rd, from 6:30pm-8pm at the Coldbrook Pumphouse (1101 Monroe NW). We have a few exciting projects we plan to get underway, as well as a brief presentation about the Coldbrook Pumphouse itself! We will end things with an optional tour of the facility.

The meeting goals are threefold:

- Share recent information about the group.
- Begin exciting new projects related to outreach, education, and stewardship.
- Check out the historic Coldbrook Pumphouse.

So remember:

- Monday, March 23rd
- 6:30pm-8pm
- Coldbrook Pumphouse, 1101 Monroe NW (parking available on the north side of the building)



Wege Grant Update

As you may recall, the Coldbrook Creek Community (through the assistance of [LGROW](#)) received a 2 year grant from the Wege Foundation. The grant focused on three objectives, listed below along with the progress made toward each.

Community Outreach

- A diverse group of stakeholders within the watershed have been identified, such as schools, neighborhood organizations, and environmental groups...and of course individuals such as you!
- An outreach plan is being developed, including verifiable/measurable goals such as:
 - Creation and distribution of material such as brochures and bumper stickers
 - Meeting/activity participation
 - Website usage

Education

- Partnership with school classroom activities at Highland Park.
- Potential collaboration with local tech group to develop an online self-guided watershed tour.

Stewardship

- Participation in stream clean-ups and invasive species removal along the creek banks.
- Beginning to obtain tools and skills necessary for citizen scientists to collect creek data.
- Engaged in promoting and taking part in adopting storm drains.



Sacred Grounds

LGROW and the Coldbrook Creek Community are coordinating with Sacred Grounds to offer an informational session this spring within our watershed (date and location TBD...watch for more info soon!).

The National Wildlife Federation's [Sacred Grounds](#) program recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities who create wildlife habitat, actively link faith practices and caring for the environment, and disseminate these practices throughout the community. They have funding (\$1500 mini-grants) and technical support available for 8 faith communities interested in participating in the program. In this program Houses of Worship would have the opportunity to create a native plant garden on their grounds. If anyone is interested, please contact Mai Allyn Del Angel by e-mail at mai.allyn.pham@gmail.com

Sacred Grounds also offers Residential Workshops for anyone in Grand Rapids to come and learn more about rainscaping and native plants. Anyone who attends this workshop will receive a \$50 voucher towards their own native plants.



Upcoming Events

- 2-29: [Quiet Adventure Symposium](#)
- 3-23: Coldbrook Creek Community Meeting
- 5-8: [LGROW Spring Forum](#)
- Sacred Grounds Rainwater Workshop (date and location TBD)
- Green Cleaning Class at Kent District Library (various locations, check KDL events for more info)