



# OLIVETTE WEED WARRIORS 2020-2021 SEASON

**SATURDAYS 9:00-11:00 AM**

**OCTOBER 10  
NOVEMBER 14  
DECEMBER 12**

**JANUARY 9  
FEBRUARY 13  
MARCH 13**

**APRIL 10  
MAY 8\***  
*\*May hours 8-10AM*



*Warson Park Restoration  
Area I, spring 2020.*



## WEED WARRIORS WORKS!

Here's a great reminder of how far we've come in restoring native habitats in our parks! Weed Warriors works! The photo on the right was taken this spring on the Warson Park paved pathway. The inset photo was taken of the same area December 2015 the morning of the inaugural Weed Warriors work day. Thanks to all of your hard work, we have several areas of successful bush honeysuckle eradication!



*A bench along the new Sassafras Trail*

## NEW OLIVETTE HIKING TRAILS

During the stay at home order in St Louis County, Olivette's parks served as respite for many. Daily walkers, bikers, joggers, and dog-walkers increased dramatically. During this time, two new woodland hiking trails were created in Warson and Stacy Parks.

In Warson Park, the new Sassafras Trail, takes hikers through a Weed Warriors project area. The Trail forms a loop, connecting the end of the paved pathway through the woodland strip separating the upper and lower fields. Weed Warriors work days this fall will continue native plantings and clearing additional bush honeysuckle along the hiking path.

Stacy park's new Cottonwood Trail is a detour off the paved pathway at Stacy, meandering through the woodland bordering the southern end of Stacy Park. This Pathway will require a lot of bush honeysuckle removal and native plantings over the next couple of years. This habitat restoration will be more gradual due to the sloping terrain, and efforts to maintain a green screen along the neighboring fence line.

Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and volunteer Weed Warrior Ed Kastner is the driving force behind these new trails, designing and building the majority of each trail. Thank you Ed!

Keep an eye out for a new program coming later this year: Trail Team! A group dedicated to trail building and maintenance.



*Horticulturist, Brian Azcona*

## NEW CITY HORTICULTURIST

Brian Azcona began work with the City in March, at the height of the spring season. Following the Parks Master | Vision Plan, Brian set to work developing a Native Tree & Perennial Planting Schedule. This plan includes replanting areas previously cleared of invasive bush honeysuckle, replacing trees removed due to disease or storm damage, and installing native perennials in each City park. Brian has already installed more plants & trees in his six months than in the previous several years!

As Weed Warriors kicks-off it's fifth season, Brian is looking forward to meeting all the volunteers and continuing the charge of eradicating invasive species and restoring biodiverse native habitats in all of Olivette's parks.

Several people are now volunteering on a weekly basis with watering, pruning, and planting with Brian. If this is of interest to you, please let Brian know! His email address is [bazcona@olivettemo.com](mailto:bazcona@olivettemo.com) and his cell phone is 314.313.4212.



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