Outlook

Greenspace Newsletter

From Jennifer Erena <steward@bobolink-greenspace.com>
Date Sun 7/5/2026 8:06 AM

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The Neighborhood Chronicle #11

BOB O LINK GREENSPACE

Humidity and high temps have arrived. 😋
I sure have enjoyed the perfect and near-perfect weather we've had recently - enough to mark me as spoiled and not ready for the heat.

WORKDAYS

With rain and educational events, we've had few actual workdays days in the greenspace. I have re-scheduled the workdays every Saturday 10 am since the 2nd and 4th schedule was confusing. Hopefully it will open up more "good days" for people. I am also looking for others who want to volunteer for workdays - perhaps the younger, stronger, 😂 😂. If you have ideas or connections to groups, let's connect! I have been chatting with the Saint Joseph Hospital Green Team, but corporate events take time.

SPEAK UP ABOUT PARKS

This is pretty neat - lexingtonky.gov/parkplan - there is an "mapping activity" link where you can add comments about Lexington Parks and how they are used. Also, a link to surveys for Golf Courses and Parks & Rec in general. I encourage you to check it out and add your voice.

Stay green, stay kind, stay connected - Jennifer Erena

STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT

UPDATE: We applied for the USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) along with EQIP. No ruling yet for EQIP, but we were informed that the "conservation practices or activities you want to implement do not meet program or funding requirements". It probably has more to do with the history of crops on the land, but the implementation of the program seems to be broader based on the USDA personnel rather than clear eligibility. I worked with Ken (FoWR) and Heather from Fayette Co Conservation District office to request more information to better understand the decision. Ken and I are meeting with Heather Silvanik on Tuesday. Heather and Eric Allness, our State Conservationist, are also planning a site visit. The support we are getting from FCCD is amazing and we are trailblazers for USDA engagement in Lexington for urban greenspaces. 😉

FIELD NOTES



The Turn to Summer

On the summer solstice, as the earth completed its northward tilt toward the sun, I stepped into the front yard to appreciate the planet's wobble and enjoy the gift of extra light. The evening show was just starting, and the robins were settling into their balcony seats to enjoy it. Minutes before that late sunset, the fireworks began. Lightning bugs started to rise from the grass and reinforced the fact that I need nothing except moments like this to keep me happy.

Lately, we neighbors have mentioned how few lightning bugs we see these days, but that night, though certainly not a multitude, there were quite a few. They – the learned, empirical They say if we want lightning bugs, we should mow our grass a little higher and not spray chemicals on our lawns and gardens. Better yet, leave a corner of the yard unmown, and make those little biofluorescent miracles even happier. I mowed my front yard two days earlier, so the grass wasn't tall yet, but apparently it was high enough for fireflies to hide and survive. My father always taught me to mow my lawn higher in the summer, with the idea that it would provide shade and cooling for the roots during the hot months. And because I'm a good girl, I yam, (*My Fair Lady* reference here—say it aloud with a Cockney accent) I almost always listened to my father, and I mow high. What he and I didn't know back then was we were also providing habitat for insects.

The sun set, and the fireflies did their courtship dances in the warm air of a season turning from spring into summer. Their lives are so short, but I hope those dances and light shows are filled with more than just the drive to procreate, but also the joy of a gentle summer's night. Yes, you could accuse me of anthropomorphizing, but perhaps joy can be felt by all creatures. I want to believe that.

There is certainly joy to be found on a summer night, listening to the robins settle in to their evening roosts as they catch up with friends and family, and watching the lightning bugs rise like bubbles in a glass of champagne. It makes me feel close to my mother, who loved robins and gardens and, especially, the longest day of the year. And close to my father, who loved that my mother and I loved nature. I hope the people we love who have passed before us can still experience summer nights like this on the other side of the veil, because, to me, this is heaven.

Carol Lea Spence
Kentucky Master Naturalist
Neighbor



STEWARDSHIP STEPS

Group Workdays - each Saturday 10 am

On Your Own

Remember one of our mottos - "See an invasive, pull an invasive, anytime"! Check out the signs showing pictures and descriptions of

invasives. Woody things like young Tree of Heaven can be pulled and left in place. Blooming herbaceous invasives really need to be bagged so the seeds do not mature and spread.

Check out the Green Neighbor Certification by Bluegrass Greensource.

I think it would be cool to get as many neighbors as possible to get certified. It's easy. Only completing a survey and scoring at least 30, which isn't challenging (here is the PDF version of the survey). And it makes you think about common practices.

Give feedback on the evolving greenspace long-term...

5-Year Conservation Plan

Management Zones

The Big Picture Goals

SEASONAL SNAPSHOT







Historical 50-year Flooding -

We've had some *exciting* times lately. June 22, the rain came fast and furious. You can check out all my photos and videos from Monday, June 22 at Bob O Link Water - iCloud Photo Sharing

The Raindrop App says we had 2.25" of rain that day and NOAA Atlas 14 says that is 25 or 50-year, based on timeframe of rainfall, which I am not sure, but seems less than an hour. I heard the city people say it was 50-year. It came down so fast that it overwhelmed the storm drains and "jumped the curb" in many place.

Past Newsletters - Chronicle of Activities

🎓 **Learn more** about our beautiful planet and greenspace from our talented neighbors at https://bobolink-greenspace.com/

📩 **Want to write an article?** Or have a topic you want to learn more about? Send your article/ideas to jennifer.erena@me.com.

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