



In a year of unprecedented challenges, WRV found ways to continue our mission to restore the natural areas of Wissahickon Valley Park.

Despite the onset of a global pandemic, WRV was still able to find creative ways to **increase the tree canopy** in the park, as well as **reduce the overgrowth of invasive plant species** and plant native shrubs in their place.

100 TREES PLANTED

Since we were not able to implement the many volunteer projects we had planned for the year, we launched the **One Tree at a Time** initiative, in which members of the WRV leadership — working singly or with members of their households — “adopted” key restoration sites, removing invasive vegetation and planting native trees near **Historic Rittenhouse Town, Hermit’s Cave, and Kitchens Lane**. As the summer progressed we were able to train and provision other volunteers to participate in this safe, socially distanced initiative.



A Year of IMPACT

Volunteer Grace Richter and one of the 100 trees WRV was able to plant in 2020 despite limitations imposed by the pandemic.



Above: Long-time Wissahickon supporter Gene Bishop was honored with a restoration project in her name.

Left: Mindy Maslin and Sid Ozer plant a gray birch tree for the Sam Ozer Memorial Project.

As summer turned to autumn, we were able to organize small masked and socially distanced volunteer crews to participate in important restoration efforts, including the **Gene Bishop Memorial Project** which established a new restoration site near **Monastery Stables**. 40 native trees and shrubs were planted, representing 12 species, including gray birch, bigtooth aspen, and American elderberry.

18 NATIVE SPECIES INTRODUCED

The **Sam Ozer Memorial Project** established a significant new planting near **Historic Rittenhousetown**. In only three days, small volunteer crews worked in shifts to plant 50 trees and shrubs representing 13 species, including hackberry, American basswood, and pawpaw. In an area previously blanketed by a dense thicket of invasive plants, a small native forest — Sam’s Forest — is beginning to grow.



WRV President Steve Jones spent many hours of 2020 searching for and cataloguing past plantings.

In addition to continuing restoration, 2020 has been a time to take stock of the work that dedicated WRV volunteers have done over our **23-year history**, and to draw lessons from the past as we chart a course for the future.

This year we have embarked on an ambitious **data collection project** that involves surveying past planting sites and implementing new record-keeping practices.

4000 TREES PLANTED in our 23 YEAR HISTORY

Our tree tagging program allows us to develop an understanding of the survival and growth rates of the various species at our sites over the long term.



This tree is tagged as "K339," which indicates that it is a specimen of swamp white oak, Quercus bicolor, and was planted by WRV at our Kitchens Lane location in Fall 2001.



This year, although we got off to a good start in the early spring, we have had to pause most of our **programming** because of the pandemic.

In October we hosted a combined restoration crew and fund-raiser in the Hermit's Cave area with Congregation Mishkan Shalom. This was the **14th Annual "Mishkanathon!"**

About 25 volunteer students and parents worked at our restoration site near the **Hermitage**, building deer guards, removing invasives, and planting canopy trees.



For more information on WRV and the latest news, please visit our website at restorewissahickon.org

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS:



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2021!