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Cc: Greg Gerritt; Bruce Donald Campbell; Jim Kelley; Judy Hadley; Susan Korte; Kathy Rourke; Arthur Plitt; Michael Bradlee; Irma Campbell

Subject: Report on use of of legislative allocation from the RI Rivers Council to Friends of the Moshassuck

Report on Grant to Friends of the Moshassuck from the RI Rivers Council June 2015

Friends of the Moshassuck was allocated \$1700 from the Rhode Island Rivers Council for 2015 projects. Three projects were funded, the continuing forestation project at Collyer Field was allocated \$400 to purchase trees and compost. Creating an on line searchable map and data base for the Collyer Field forest was allocated \$600. The Moshassuckcritters project was allocated \$700 for equipment and a stipend.

Friends of the Moshassuck held its annual tree planting on April 11. 9 volunteers planted 6 trees that morning including Maple, Oak, and Gum trees. Since that time the trees have been watered when it has been dry and the newly planted trees and the path system has been kept clear of knotweed. Pictures and video are available on the Friends of the Moshassuck website <http://www.themoshassuck.org/treeplanting.php>

From the \$400 allocated to the project FOTM purchased 6 trees from Central Nursery in Johnston at a cost of \$368.00 and paid EarthAppliance \$30 for compost to be used in the planting. The Groundwork Green Team will come by on July 7 to help suppress knotweed with the annual Knotweed Knockdown. In addition FOTM is meeting with the Providence Parks Department to discuss having the City purchase the land from Peter Pan Bus company, the current owner, so that it could be incorporated into the Collyer Field park and used as a demonstration forest. After 16 years of planting, the site is nearly full.

To celebrate the FOTM Collyer Field tree planting process nearing the end of its planned tree coverage extent, Bruce Campbell has mapped the planted trees and produced the first iteration of an on-line searchable integrated database/map of the trees that have been planted on the site since 1998. This tool will be the base of a Japanese Knotweed suppression effectiveness study that will look at knotweed volume changes as the canopy from planted trees grows to limit the amount of sunlight available to the forest floor. A searchable database, combined with a mapping of the location of trees, along with the years planted, can be investigated at http://themoshassuck.org/trees_table/. Mapping was completed while winter access facilitated easy measurement making. But, some tree type details were harder to estimate without any leaves to aid in identification. Tree identification will be revisited during Autumn 2015, with the aid of a botanical expert, before the trees lose their foliage. At that time, the database will be updated and knotweed extent will be recorded as it will be done every year thereafter for comparison. Sunlight filtration metrics will also developed as well going forward. Bruce Campbell has been paid the \$600 allocated and will finish the initial project this fall with no further costs incurred.

It has been a strange year at the drainage swale in the North Burial Ground. It has gone completely dry twice since the snow melted, The second time two weeks after the Fowler's Toads and Gray Tree Frogs had mated. An entire crop of thousands of tadpoles died when the pond went dry on June 14. June 15 it rained and the mating started up again. New

tadpoles appeared on June 22 and there has been a steady stream of new hatchlings each day since. . This report will be filed well before the tadpole season ends, and therefore this particular project will extend well beyond the June 30 filing date, as expected. Already a very extensive library of footage has been taken providing the context for the later videos set at the drainage swale and all of the other critters in the Burial Ground, and a number of finished videos have been posted to the Moshassuckcritters Youtube site including a video of a Great Blue Heron swallowing a fish and the Return of the Tadpoles on June 22. https://www.youtube.com/user/Moshassuckcritters?view_as=public In addition to taking video and editing Greg Gerritt has lead 5 tadpole and toad tours this spring with more than 20 people coming to the Burial Ground to listen to the calling adults and watch the mating or to see tadpoles in the pond. Additional Tadpole tours are anticipated as the season has been extended with the late and dry season of mating. There will be tadpoles in the drainage swale (if it does not go dry again) until the end of July. Just this past week insight into the behavior of adult Tree Frogs and Toads was discovered and there is also now extensive video of adult anurans in the darkness and at their homes, with a small fraction of it available to the public at this time. Production of Teddie the Tadpoles Great Adventure will begin in earnest after spring and summer the filming season closes.

In addition to tadpole videos, the drainage swale, as part of rainwater infrastructure, has been studied and videoed for those qualities and the long term plan is to explore the relationship between amphibians and rainwater infrastructure in an effort to increase amphibian habitat in Rhode Island.

The project was allocated \$700 in FOTM's Rivers Council grant and FOTM has raised an additional \$1850 for wildlife video work beyond June 30. The Rivers Council grant was spent as follows. \$399.99 to Canon USA for a camera that has been used nearly every day since April and \$300 to Greg Gerritt as his stipend video and editing work.

Of the \$1700 allocated to Friends of the Moshassuck by the Rivers Council we have spent \$1697.99.

The Rivers Council regularly receives video postings from the Moshassuckcritters project and other notes about FOTM projects. These shall continue as more video is taken and as the database of the forest is refined. We thank the Rivers Council for its support.

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<http://themoshassuck.org/index.php>