

# Update on the Race Track Nature Preserve Spring 2020

Significant but by necessity slow progress has been made in establishing a native wildflower and grass meadow at the former Race Track. We have also expanded the walking trails in the basin area, opening up new vantage points to view the beautiful vistas. Our goal is to reclaim the balance of our local ecosystem which had been severely compromised by invasive and exotic species, to enhance the aesthetics of our community and to provide environmental education opportunities for our children.



Central trail partly following the course of the former horse racing track

Native flora that were seeded and/or planted are finally establishing themselves: look at the bright red and blue of Lobelia flowers, smell the clustered mountain mint and see the unusual Indian Pipe wildflower—the presence of which is a firm indicator of a healthy and flourishing natural environment. The inventory of native plant species we have identified so far has reached 250.



Lobelia Cardinalis, named after the red robes worn by Cardinals

We have seeded the Tuxedo Road end of the flat basin (at the Catalpa tree grove and Savannah area) with native flowers and grasses. This will be followed by live plantings in 2020.



We will be delighted to give you a personal tour of the Nature Preserve and show you all the good things happening there. We will also share with you the highs and lows of its history—from having served as a polo ground, horse racing track, dog show ground to refuse dump!

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