



## 2018 Year End Message

Dear Friend of Sligo Creek:

It seems as though every day we learn of growing threats to our environment – and while we must focus on efforts towards resolution of these problems, it sometimes seems as though they are too large for us to make an impact. In contrast, what we can readily impact is what each of us can do locally, in our own neighborhoods, to help our planet.

It was those locally-minded efforts that drew a small group of neighbors together in 2001 to form the Friends of Sligo Creek. FOSC is a 501(c)(3), volunteer-led group dedicated to the health of the Sligo Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia, and its surrounding park. Our efforts continue today, stronger than ever, because of your help and participation.

With your support we accomplished much this year to help our neighborhood park:

- Led one of our most successful trash clean-ups ever this spring – attracting over 570 neighbors to Sweep the Creek – collecting over 330 bags of trash and 130 bags of recycling;
- Created a Spanish-language version of our colorful brochure to expand our coverage in our community;
- Presented a variety of popular programs, attracting many to learn about such local wonders as: how bats are being conserved in the face of habitat loss; two popular local bird walks; and an evening wildflower walk with a Montgomery Parks plant ecologist.
- Continued our annual Champion Tree bike ride with Joe Howard;
- Published our informative bi-monthly e-newsletter, which contains many opportunities for local environmental engagement.

Knowing that we can accomplish much more as a partner and collaborator than through our single efforts, Friends of Sligo Creek extended our work in a variety of productive actions:

- Staffed the “trash team” at the Takoma Park Folk Festival;
- Served as fiscal agent to Sligo Three Oaks neighborhood group’s successful grant to lower impact of storm runoff on the Creek;
- Continued our long-established partnership with Montgomery Parks – helping to advertise and promote Parks events and work alongside this team to remove invasive plants and promote good conservation practices;
- Won a grant from Maryland Environmental Trust and the Maryland Department of Transportation to expand our water quality monitoring efforts to new sites such as Kemp Mill and other “hot spots”.

It's amazing what a small group of neighbors can do – armed with passion and a desire to conserve and protect our own backyard. Will you help us? With the exception of grant income, our budget consists entirely of donations.

- ✓ You can **donate via our website** – <http://www.fosc.org/join/donate/>
- ✓ Or **donate via check** by mailing us at: FOSC, P.O. Box 11572, Takoma Park, MD 20913
- ✓ Or **donate via Amazon**, by designating FOSC as your Smile charity—we'll receive 0.5 percent of all your purchases. See how here: <http://www.fosc.org/AmazonSmile.htm>

Additionally—please consider joining us. We have many opportunities for service – our friendly committees cover activities as diverse as invasive plant removal to water quality monitoring to service on our Board – and we are always open to new Friends of the Creek joining our efforts. Check us out at: <http://www.fosc.org/join/>

From all of us at FOSC, thank you for considering our request. We hope to see you in the Park soon!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

***The FOSC Board***

*Corinne Stephens, President*

*Wes Darden, Vice President*

*Delia Aguilar*

*Jim Anderson*

*Dee Clarkin*

*Kit Gage*

*Sherrell Goggin*

*Sarah Marcus*

*Mike Smith*

*Melinda Villanueva*