



A word from Wildwood

The goal of Friends of Wildwood is to preserve and support Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

Galaxy Digital – Our New Volunteer Website

Our new volunteer management website gives us an easy place to track volunteer hours, keep clearances organized, post volunteer opportunities and communicate efficiently.

If you have been an active volunteer on a committee, at the front desk, or at festivals, there is already an account set up for you. You should have received an email several months ago from no-reply@galaxydigital.com. From this link you can reset your password and login. Once logged in, please be sure your contact information is accurate. Then under “qualifications” you may upload digital copies of your clearances. Links are provided to complete these clearances. If we already had your clearances on file and they were up to date, they are already uploaded into this system.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Visit dauphincountyparks.galaxydigital.com to create an account. Once you have completed your profile, a staff member will reach out to you!

Volunteer opportunities include:

Nature Center/Front Desk – Meet and greet visitors, answer telephones, process Nature Shop sales, assist the staff with the opening and/or closing of the Nature Center and assist visitors in the Exhibit Hall. Volunteers are in high demand for weekends.

Board Member – Our Friends of Wildwood Board provides immeasurable support to the Park through their work during capital campaigns and on various committees.

Event Volunteer – Assist staff members at a variety of educational stations at our two large festivals: Wetlands Festival in April and Celebrate Wildwood in September

Help keep Wildwood beautiful and join our amazing group of volunteers!



Help celebrate Wildwood Park with a nature-themed afternoon! Learn about butterflies, birds and more. Participate in pumpkin painting, children’s crafts, live musical entertainment and guided walks. Walk the Delta Boardwalk and engage in a fall-themed Storywalk. There’s something for the whole family and its free!

Music with Holly Serio 11am –1pm & with Shine and Grace Folk Duo 1:30pm –3:30pm

Food Vendor: Mad Dash Grilled Cheese

Guided Walks:

- Bird Walk with Appalachian Audubon Society 8am – 10am
- Plant Walk with Jane Earle 11am – 12pm
- Master Gardener Flower Walk with Kevin Kelly 1pm – 2pm

Wildwood Partners: Appalachian Audubon Society, Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Girl Scouts and Penn State Extension.

Recent Sightings

The Park has been packed this summer, and not with just humans. Photographers and visitors have found time to enjoy nesting ruby-throated hummingbirds, fledgling ospreys and soaring monarch butterflies to name a few. The American Lotus is once again blooming on the lake along with swamp rose mallow adding bursts of yellow, pink and white. Additionally, a great-horned owl was spotted in the early morning hours, marking a rare park sighting indeed. The usual great blue heron, great egret, American bullfrog and painted turtle were seen, sometimes simultaneously. We even had a Red-necked Phalarope (shorebird) over Memorial Day weekend. You just never know what you’ll see!



Photo: Larry Imes

A word from Wildwood

is published quarterly by

Friends of Wildwood

100 Wildwood Way

Harrisburg, PA 17110

(717) 221-0292

explorewildwoodpark.org

E-mail: wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

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Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center are part of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. The Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is closed Mondays and holidays. Wildwood Park's trails are open from dawn until dusk. Programs can be viewed at explorewildwoodpark.org/events and questions directed to wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

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Jessica Picone, Part-time Environmental Educator

Aiden Reynolds, Intern

Barbara Shunk, Part-time Environmental Educator

Evan Wilson, Part-time Environmental Educator

A Word from the President

JOIN THE WILDWOOD FAMILY!

Did you know that many of the activities and programs at Wildwood are the result of many hours of work by the Friends of Wildwood support group and its members in addition to the hardworking staff and Wildwood volunteers. The Friends is a tax-exempt member organization which currently has over 368 member-friends. And did you also know that there are 63 dog members (and one cat) in a special membership category that recognizes some of our extra-special and frequent visitors. We're grateful for all this support as we work toward a new goal of 400 members.

While the Friends Board is always looking for new ways to thank our members, the current benefits of joining include:

- Your tax-deductible contribution
- Direct receipt of the Friend's quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount in the Nature Shop
- Reciprocal membership to over 125 other Nature Centers throughout the country
- Special program invitations

Joining the Friends is easy and can be done by filling out an application form at the Nature Center, or online at www.explorewildwoodpark.org under the SUPPORT link. Another terrific way to support Wildwood is to gift a Friends membership to someone for a special occasion, a thank you or just because. For our existing members, thank you for being a Friend of Wildwood and for your annual membership contribution. For those who haven't yet joined our family, we hope you'll give us your consideration. We can't do what we do without your support.

See you at Wildwood,
Jim

Gardening Group

Over the past few years, an effort has been made to redesign the plantings around the Nature Center to include more native and pollinator species. Please consider joining an expanded group of volunteers at Wildwood, dedicated to planting and maintaining these new garden areas around the Nature Center. This group meets the second Saturday of the month (the same time as the Volunteer Work Day). Depending on the time of year, the tasks included will be mulching, weeding and planting along with learning about pollinator plants and why they are important. As plans develop, additional workdays may be announced, as needed. Once you are on the list, you will be emailed as a reminder and asked to sign-up if you can work that day. Please help us keep these areas not only beautiful but a functional part of the Wildwood ecosystem. Interested folks should email slenker@dauphincounty.gov to be added to the email list.

Wild About Dogs Recap

If you were at Wildwood Park on Saturday, May 13th, you may have noticed many four-legged friends and their human companions enjoying the park for our second annual Wild About Dogs event. This event is quickly becoming a favorite as we honor our pups and share the wonders of Wildwood with them.

A bit of rain didn't seem to dampen the spirits as dogs and people enjoyed visiting the vendors, eating delicious treats from the food trucks, watching demonstrations from Summit Search and Rescue and Puppies with a Purpose, completing a scavenger hunt, capturing photos at our custom dog photo board and learning more about ways to enjoy and support the Park.

A huge thank you to the vendors and exhibitors who participated in the day: B&L Dogz, Crema Café, Blue Mountain Veterinary Clinic, Furry Friends, Humane Society, Patrolman Perry and his canine, Puppies with a Purpose, Summit Search and Rescue, Three Dog Bakery and Whistle Stop on Wheels!



Outdoor Art Bottle Cap Art

On May 20, Wildwood welcomed over forty Girl Scouts representing Daisies on up through Seniors. While meeting the requirements for their badges, they spent time with past Art In The Wild Artist and high school art teacher, Naomi Spahr. With her help they collectively contributed to creating an upcycled bottle cap mosaic featuring everyone's favorite butterfly, the monarch! Thank you to all who contributed and to our volunteers, Linda, Carol and Kathie for helping the day run so smoothly. You can check out this beautiful work of art inside the Exhibit Hall of the Nature Center!



Day Camps Wrap Up

This summer Wildwood hosted 131 campers throughout our 8 different Day Camp offerings! These campers ranged in age from 4-17 years old! Our staff was thrilled to have Aiden Reynolds as our summer intern this year. Aiden is an Environmental Science student at Harrisburg University. He was eager to learn and helped with all our camps this summer. We will miss him when he starts his classes in the fall, but he may be around for a program or two during the school year.



Intern: Aiden Reynolds

The summer began with two weeks of Nature Explorers, our 6 to 8-year-olds. Their excitement to explore the park was contagious. Our themes this year were In the Air, In the Water, In the Sky, Underground and Nature is all Around!

Then we hosted our 15 to 17-year-olds for Environmental Pioneers for two days. This camp gives older campers a chance to have hands-on experience with a variety of field work techniques and learn more about the wide range of environmental careers. The camp concluded with a career panel where guest speakers from environmental organizations shared their expertise and advice to these high school students! During July, we hosted two weeks of our Junior Naturalist Camp for 9 to 11-year-olds. Campers were able to visit Detweiler Park and enjoy live animal presentations about insects and raptors!

Our Little Sprouts Camp for 4 to 5-year-olds was so popular that we had to open a second time slot this year. During this half-day camp, these little sprouts explored Wildwood using their five senses, learned all about birds, and discovered what lives in and near water!

We finally wrapped up our summer day camps with our 12 to 14-year-old camp, Outdoor Week. These campers learned all about survival skills and practiced their teamwork during our all-day kayaking trip down the Susquehanna River. We had so much fun sharing the magic of Wildwood with the next generation of explorers!



Art In The Wild

As the 2023 season comes to a close, we celebrate our People's Choice winners and look towards the start of all 2024 will have in store. The theme for 2024 will be "Nature Heals." Applications can be obtained online or inside the Nature Center and are due by January 19, 2024. The public is also encouraged to attend an Art In The Wild Workshop on Saturday, November 4 from 9:00am–11:00am. The workshop is \$15 per participant. Participants will join a local artist for a hands-on workshop of their choosing to learn the ins and outs - dos and don'ts of creating outdoor environmental art. Groups will create a land art installation in the Park which will remain throughout the rest of the year for the public's viewing. Register for one of three workshop options online.

1st place

Site: 11 "Joyful Noise"
Artist: Eve Gurbacki



2nd place

Site: 17 "Not Today, World"
Artist: Lorayn McPoyle



3rd place

Site: 5 "Octopus's Garden"
Artists: Beau MacGinnes, Jana MacGinnes, Aubrey McNaughton & Debbie Reihart



Species Spotlight: Great Golden Digger Wasp

Allow us to introduce you to a relatively harmless wasp, unless you're a cricket or a katydid! This incredible insect has one hardworking mother. The female wasp digs a series of tunnels with vertical connecting burrows. Once she obtains her desired prey, she administers a sting which paralyzes the insect. She then drags the prey head first into a burrow lays an egg on it, exits and covers up the hole. The hatching larvae feed on the still living prey before emerging. She will repeat this process 2-7 times in July and August. Birds often like to intercept these meals before she has a chance to get them into her burrow. We've enjoyed watching them on the northern end of the Towpath Trail this year.



Photo: Larry Imes

Artist Corner Makeover

The Artist Corner in the Exhibit Hall welcomed some new works of art this past summer thanks to Mark Susinno, local Harrisburg-area resident and avid park user. Mark has been painting underwater depictions of freshwater and saltwater game for more than 35 years. He now concentrates his time on trout and saltwater flats species with a focus on fly tying. His artwork has appeared on the cover of numerous national fishing magazines and several fishing stamps. In fact, he designed the 1991 Pennsylvania's Trout/Salmon Stamp which was the first introduction of such a permit by the PA Game Commission. Stop by the Exhibit Hall to view his collection!



Welcome Evan

Wildwood Park welcomed a new part-time Environmental Educator, Evan Wilson, this spring. Evan earned a B.S in Business Management and a B.A in Entrepreneurship, with Minor concentrations in Business Law and Environmental Studies from Lasell College. He also completed a M.S of Environmental Studies and Sustainability, and M.P.A at the College of Charleston. During his time at the College of Charleston, he conducted research on the Evaluation of Potential Fitness Effects of Chinook Salmon Aquaculture Using Non-Invasive Population Genomic Analyses of MHC Nucleotide Substitution Spectra. He is a freelance Wildlife and Landscape Photographer and works part-time as a pet sitter for a wide range of fur-babies. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, traveling, camping, playing music and long walks. He's excited to join the Wildwood team and broaden his knowledge about the local environment!



Photo Contest

The annual Friends of Wildwood Photo Contest will once again accept photos taken at any one of six Dauphin County Parks including: Fort Hunter Park, Fort Hunter Conservancy, Detweiler Park, Wiconisco Creek Park, Lykens Glen Park and of course Wildwood Park. The application form, in the Photo Contest brochure, may be found at the Nature Center where mats can also be purchased. Nonprofessional photos may be submitted between Wednesday, November 1 and Sunday, December 3 by 3 pm. Entrants may submit up to two photographs. The 2023 photos will be on display for public viewing inside the Nature Center starting Tuesday, December 12.



Upcoming Events

Online Registration!

Program registration is online at www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events/
It's easy! Click on the "Events" page, scroll through the list of programs, click to register.

Volunteer Work Day

Saturdays: September 9, October 14 & November 11
10:00 am–1:00 pm
Register online.

Upcycled Crafts (Ages 5 and up)

Saturday September 16
10 am, 11:30am & 1pm \$5 per child, chaperones are free
Everything but the creativity will be supplied to make a unique creation using recycled and repurposed materials that would normally have been discarded as trash in addition to a wide array of natural materials. Register online.

Pumsucculent Workshop

Sunday, September 17
10:00 am–11:00 am & 11:30 am–12:30 pm
\$42 per participant
The ladies from Plantscapes will demonstrate how to arrange and create your Succulent Pumpkin and teach you how to care for the succulents. All materials provided. Timeslots limited to 20 people. Register online.



Flower Walk

Sunday, September 17
1:30 pm–3:00 pm
Register online.

Preschool Storytime: Fall at Wildwood

Wednesday, September 27
10:00 am–10:45 am
Register online.

Bird Walk: Fall Migration at Wildwood

Thursday, October 5
7:30 am–9:30 am
Meet in front of the nature center at 7:30 am. Register online.

Wild Edibles Program

Saturday, October 14
10:00 am–12:00 pm \$10 per participant
Join Debbie Naha-Koretzky (the Wild Edibles Lady) to discover edible plants at Wildwood Park. The program will include an indoor lecture followed by a short hike on the trails. Register online.

Friends of Wildwood Sycamore Tree Sale

Sunday, October 15 & 22
1:00 pm–3:00 pm Donations
Stop by the Nature Center to get your own American Sycamore Tree. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Sales are cash or check only, so please plan accordingly.

Tree Identification Walk

Sunday, October 15
1:30 pm–2:30 pm Free
Register online.

Night at the Nature Center

Saturday, October 21
5:30 pm–8:00 pm \$8 per participant
Take an after-hours walk through the Olewine Nature Center and watch the exhibit hall critters come to life! Kids will meet these fun talking animals and visit other stations including a campfire to make s'mores, sip apple cider, a craft, and a not so scary Halloween story. Register online.

Wooden Wall Hangings Workshop

Saturday, October 28
9–10:30 am, 11am–12:30pm & 1–2:30 pm \$45 per participant
Join Raymond Curanzy III a local artist and woodworker for a workshop to create an unique wooden wall hanging. Each participant will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of lumber milled from Pennsylvania trees and foraged wooden accents. Various rocks, fossils and other natural items will be available for use. Timeslots limited to 15 people. Register online.

Kids Discover: Spooky Species (Ages 5-10)

Saturday, October 28
1:00 pm–2:30 pm \$5 per child, chaperones are free
Free
Join a Naturalist for a chance to learn about some nocturnal animals to help you get into the Halloween spirit! Learn about some cool but strange nocturnal animals from marsupials like opossums, to swooping mammals like bats and even some unique primates like aye-ayes. Register online.

The Cat in the Hat Learning Series (Ages 3-5)

Thursdays, Nov. 2, 9 & 16
10:00 am–10:45 am \$5 per child, chaperones are free
Stories, rhymes, and a craft/activity will introduce science through the eyes of the Cat In The Hat. Classes are offered during 3 consecutive Thursdays. Register online.

Macrame Holiday Ornaments

Sunday, November 5
10:00 am–12:00 pm or 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
\$55 per participant
Fiber artist Lindsey Sansoni will teach a variety of essential knotting techniques and lead you through the creation two beautiful hand-crafted set of holiday-themed ornaments. Each timeslot is limited to 15 participants. Register online.



Persimmon Walk

Tuesday, November 7
1:00 pm–2:00 pm Free
Free
Meet at the South Lot trailhead. Register online.

Birds & Coffee with Appalachian Audubon

Saturdays, November 11 & December 9
10:00 am–1:00 pm Free
Free
Stop by the Nature Center Bird Viewing Area for a warm cup of bird-friendly coffee, tea or hot cocoa with Appalachian Audubon Society. Discover what birds visit our feeders most often and learn how to identify each one. Register online.

Wild Recipes: Fall Foraging in Your Backyard

Tuesday, November 14
6:00 pm–7:30 pm \$20 per participant
Curious about edible plants and how to utilize them to create yummy fall recipes? Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to cook with a variety of fall fruits and nuts. Samples of each edible treat will be provided. Register online.

Waterfowl Walk

Thursday, November 16
8:00 am–10:00 am Free
Meet at the Middle Parking Lot. Register online.

National Take a Hike Day with KTA at Fort Hunter Conservancy

Friday, November 17
7:00 am–9:30 am Free
Free
It's National Take a Hike Day, get outdoors for some fresh air, scenery and exercise at Fort Hunter Conservancy. Join Executive Director Brook Lenker of Keystone Trails Association for a strenuous, mountain hike ending with a picturesque view of the Susquehanna River. Register online.

Kids Discover: Turkey Talk (Ages 2-5)

Tuesday, November 21
10:00 am–11:30 am \$5 per child, chaperones are free
Learn all about Wild Turkeys and what makes these colorful birds unique. Program will include crafts and a story. Register online.

Wreath Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 25, Sunday, Nov. 26 & Tuesday, Nov. 28
9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 1:30 pm \$30 per wreath
Make an evergreen wreath out of natural materials. Everything will be supplied to make a wreath with decorations from nature, including cones, berries, nuts and seed pods. Register online.

Volunteer Spotlight: Dan & Addie Farber

Dan and Addie have been entering the Park via the east side of 322 for walks for over 25 years. Their home is conveniently located in the adjacent neighborhood where they have lived now for 7 years. Addie is a retired elementary school teacher, primarily teaching upper elementary, and Dan is a retired environmental engineering technician for Gannett Flemming and then Environmental Acoustics. As an environmental engineer he focused on air quality and mitigating noise pollution near highways.

They have been volunteering for over five years, but not consecutively. They first met Sandy Lockerman birding in the Park and got involved in a number of ways. Dan started as a "Wildwood Walker," a member of the community donned in a special hat who would walk the park and answer general questions about Wildwood things such as birds etc. After that he was a Trail Trimmer doing trail maintenance on Fox Run Trail. Addie used to help with school groups volunteering her time during field trips since she was a former educator. She also would assist at education stations during the festivals.

They now volunteer most Thursday afternoons at the Front Desk inside the Nature Center. They both shared how great it is to continue learning while they volunteer. Whether it's from folks from out-of-town stopping by to chat, helping kids in the Exhibit Hall or interacting with the staff. There's always something new to learn.

Beyond volunteering, they also enjoy attending flower and bird walks, the winter lecture series and most recently, kids discover programs with their granddaughter Ada. One of Addie's favorite memories was watching Ada learn and listen to the Cat in the Hat Learning Series books as she engaged with science and nature for the first time. That series will be offered again this fall for children ages 3-5. Addie also mentioned how much she enjoys seeing the Art In The Wild installations each year. It's the wildlife and friendships that keep them coming back... not to mention the pay is excellent.

We are glad they found their way back to volunteering at the Nature Center. Wildwood Park truly is the place it is today due to the dedication, love and commitment shown by our wonderful volunteers. Thank you Dan and Addie! We plan to keep you.



16 Years of Bird Banding at Wildwood Park by Sandy Lockerman

Documenting and cataloging the plants and animals of Wildwood Park has been ongoing since the early 1990's. So, when I became a federally licensed bird bander, I decided to see what birds were migrating into and through the Park in the spring. I began in 2008 and have continued banding, even though I retired, in 2017. The wetlands of Wildwood Park provide a resting place and stopover location for birds to feed as they make their spring journey.

I use mist nets to do my banding and open them in mornings during the spring. After banding a bird, I measure and weigh it and then release it. Adding up my totals, I have found that I have caught 701 birds of 42 different species. Some of them are very common and some of them were quite a surprise to catch.

The most common species by far has been the Gray Catbird with 168 of them banded. Twenty-five of them were recaptured in later years with one adult being caught in 3 different years. This is expected as they are abundant nesters in the Park. The second most common species is the White-throated Sparrow with 84 of them banded in the spring just before they migrate north for the summer. One of them was banded in 2015 and later recaptured in 2017 and 2022 making it at least 5 years old. The American Robin comes in third with 80 of them banded. Seven of them were recaptured later. In the unexpected category, a Kentucky Warbler and Prothonotary Warbler were caught. The Kentucky Warbler (pictured on the right) was most likely migrating north to the deeper forests of Pennsylvania. The Prothonotary Warbler, a more southern species, has been slowly advancing north along the Susquehanna River and was spotted in the Park a couple of times over the years.



I will be continuing my study and will be watching for increases and decreases in the population of these songbirds that visit and reside in Wildwood Park. All banding is done with proper federal and state permits.

Used Books/Puzzles Wanted

The Friends are still collecting used or new books and puzzles to sell in their on-going Used Book Sale in the downstairs portion of the Nature Center. Field guides, children's books and other nature-related books are appropriate. Donations can be dropped off at the Nature Center Front Desk.

Birdhouse Workshop

Please join the Friends of Wildwood on **Saturday, October 7 from 10am–12pm or 1-3pm** for a fun afternoon of Birdhouse Construction and Design. Bring your friends and your creativity along to construct a bluebird box, paint a natural birdhouse gourd and design your own wooden songbird ornament. You will surely have fun while here and leave with multiple items to enhance bird viewing in your backyard. Cost is \$35 per participant, all proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Register online.



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

Make a \$5 donation to the Friends of Wildwood and receive a coupon for the annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends sale to be held on **Wednesday, October 18 from 8 am-11 pm**. The coupon gives you 25% off most purchases on the day of the sale. Coupons are available at the Nature Center Front Desk and will be available at Friends' tent during Celebrate Wildwood.

Show your support for Wildwood Park by sporting some Wildwood-themed apparel! Order at your convenience from our online store at <https://bit.ly/3LwL1uk>

Orders will take 2 weeks to process and will be available for pick-up at the Nature Center after email confirmation or shipped to you for additional costs. All sales are final and all proceeds directly benefit the projects and programs sponsored by the Friends of Wildwood.



Interested in receiving weekly emails on programming in all Dauphin County Parks? Scan this QR code with your smartphone and click on the yellow "E-Newsletter Sign-Up" Button.

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 ways to give to Wildwood.

All are tax deductible.

Details at www.explorewildwoodpark.org/support/

1. **Become a Member** or give the gift of membership
2. Make a donation
3. Make a bequest
4. Purchase a Memorial Brick
5. Contribute to Wildwood's Endowment
6. Sponsor a Program
7. Volunteer your Time



Membership Benefits

Your membership supports the ongoing programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

Your Membership provides the following:

- Reciprocal membership with more than 100 nature centers throughout the country that participate in the Association of Nature Center Administrators
- Subscription to *A Word From Wildwood* quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount off all Nature Shop purchases
- Knowing you:
 - Support outdoor educational and recreational opportunities reaching over 100,000 people annually
 - Have a direct impact on local and migratory wildlife, wild plants and the diverse people living in our community
 - Preserve Wildwood Park, now and for future generations

Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

A Word from Wildwood can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members.



Email wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov
Help save paper and money! GO GREEN!

Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

The Friends of Wildwood is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization listed with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and incorporated within the Commonwealth of PA. It is an advocate for Wildwood Park through preservation, education and financial support.

Friends of Wildwood
100 Wildwood Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 221-0292
explorewildwoodpark.org

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Mark your calendars for
these upcoming events!

Celebrate
Wildwood
Sat. September 23
11:00am—4:00pm

Friends of Wildwood
Birdhouse Workshop
Sat. October 7
10:00am—3:00pm

Night at the
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Sat. October 21
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30% Recycled post-consumer fiber