

Report from Kathryn Pankowski, JBNA Garden Advocate, December and January, 2019

Projects

The Discovery Coffee Herb Box & Michigan St Boulevard

- We had one more drive-through incident on the boulevard, making four in the first year. If they continue at this rate after the construction work is finished, we may have to rethink the boulevard design somewhat.
- The group took a month break over the holidays and is now back planning the next boulevard section. The plan has been run by the owners and manager of Discovery Coffee and they support it.
- We would like to apply for a My Great Neighbourhood Grant for this area in the spring intake and hope to open the seed exchange box in the fall, in time for seed-collecting season.

Food Tree Stewardship project

- The Charles Redfern trees were weeded and mulched in early December.
- Chris Adams has agreed to lead another spring pruning session.

Berry Patch

- The berry patch volunteers gave a short presentation at the Dec JBNA meeting; notes are in the minutes.
- The group took a one-month break over the holidays but is now back at work planning the patch.
- We have had two further responses from neighbours after the open house and have met with one set, who are generally supportive but don't like the idea of seating in the Montreal St patch.
- We met with the owner and gardener at Nourish, who support the plans.
- City information signs asking for comment will go up on both patches in February.

Spring Plant Swap

- The date has been set for May 11 and we have already received a park use permit for Irving Park.

Garden Grants

- Applications for both the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator Grant and a microgrant for JBNA gardening projects have been submitted.

Miscellaneous

- Pharmsave has kindly given us a needle disposal kit for the gardening tool bag. Now that we have it, we can hand it in with a needle in it at any time and receive a new kit free.

Ongoing activities

- I attended two Urban Food Table meetings and one Montreal St Community Garden management committee meeting (at their request).
- I wrote a column for the Feb Beacon (berry patch)