

Garden Report, April and May, 2021

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Projects

The Michigan/Menzies Seed Box Garden

- Continues to be maintained on a “one gardener per week” rotation; we resumed our once-a-month outdoor distanced planning meeting in April, and will be doing some work in pairs starting in May.
- We have resumed harvesting herbs and veg for the James Bay Community Project kitchen.

The Seed Box

- We continue to receive a steady supply of packed seeds dropped in the box and bulk seeds dropped off for packing.
- We have continued to pack at home individually, due to COVID, and are looking forward to being able to resume some outdoor group packing soon.
- We could use more seed cleaners/packers, if anyone is looking for a sedentary job they can do either at home or (once things open up a bit more) in small groups.

The Food Trees

- The apples at Charles Redfern and 3 of the 5 apples at Todd Park have set fruit well this spring, which is promising.

Allotments at Huntingdon Manor

- All allotments are occupied and planted up for spring.

Fisherman's Wharf Herb Garden

- Weekly work parties have continued, with a limit of six volunteers in the space at one time.
- We received 3 cubic metres of soil amendments from the City, moved them into the garden, and distributed them
- We have opened up an area to each side of the entrance for planting a selection of tea herbs which will also provide a spot of flowery colour as you enter or pass the garden. So far, we have planted (native) beach strawberries, lemon balm, catmint, yarrow, and violets, and sown calendula, none of which were in the garden before. More tea plants will be coming in the fall.

Plant Swap & Sale

- The James Bay Plant Swap & Sale in April was extremely well attended, with about four times the attendance and revenue of any previous swap/sale, and a line down the block. Thank you all!
- The pay-by-donation or by-a-plant (which several people did) system worked well.

City Mulch Delivery

- In April we received 3 cu m each of surplus City leaf mulch, compost, and wood chips for residents to use and they all went in several hours. I will increase the order for the fall delivery, as apparently there is a lot of demand.

City Plant Start Delivery

- The City food plant start distribution on May 22 went smoothly, but did not have the turnout we had anticipated, based on the crowds at the two April events. In early afternoon, we transferred part of our plant order to Oaklands, where they were having a rush and were almost out.

Waiting in the Wings

- Lewis Park bed
- Berry patch

Ongoing Activities

- I wrote two columns for the Beacon
- I have participated in two online Urban Food Table meetings.