

Garden Report, June and July, 2021

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Projects

The Michigan/Menzies Seed Box Garden

- Has continued to be maintained on a “one gardener per week” rotation; we anticipate switching back to weekly work parties in August, which will allow us to move forward with new projects, rather than being in “maintenance mode” as we have been through the pandemic.

The Seed Box

- We have continued to put seeds in the box almost daily, averaging about 80 packs of seeds/week through June and July. Most of these have been saved from James Bay gardens.
- We have resumed seed packing work parties, outdoors in a small group.
- It's time to start gathering seeds again. We already have 2021 California poppy, lupine, mustard, and collard seeds (among others) coming in. If you'd like to donate seed from your garden, either pack it up and put it in the box or contact jamesbaygardens@gmail.com to arrange for pickup or drop off.

The Food Trees

- The community apples at Charles Redfern and Tod Park are coming along. How can you tell when they are ripe? When they come off in your hand when you lift them gently - if you have to tug and pull, it's not time yet.

Allotments at Huntingdon Manor

- There has been a turnover of two plots during the summer.

Fisherman's Wharf Herb Garden

- Weekly work parties have continued, with a limit of six volunteers in the space at one time.
- As well as trying to keep everything tidy and well-weeded, we have installed edging along part of the main path and are beginning to plant a variety of culinary thymes along it. We have also installed two bee drinking bowls in this area, which are getting a lot of use from small winged customers.

Plants & Gardening Materials

- The JBNA will once again be partnering with the City to manage the public distribution of City food plant starts in James Bay. Date will be August 21, Irving Park (new location), 10-1, no pre-registration required.
- We will also be holding the neighbourhood fall plant swap and sale on Sat, Sept 11 at Irving Park, 10-12, featuring perennials for fall planting, house plants, and food starts.

- We have also arranged to have a fall drop-off of City leaf mulch and possibly other growing materials, such as compost, in the neighbourhood for local gardeners to use. This will be in the parking lot on the north side of Macdonald Park, probably in October.

Lewis Park

- We are starting on the process of getting the existing bed on the north side of Lewis Park designated as a community garden. This bed was intended, at the time of the park redesign, to be a food-growing area, and food has been planted there by interested neighbours on a casual basis over the years. Getting official designation as a community garden will provide the garden with access to water and other City supports.