

Report from Kathryn Pankowski, JBNA Garden Advocate, August and September, 2018

Projects

The Discovery Coffee Herb Box & Michigan St Boulevard

- We had a small amount of damage in September – a few plants broken, woven wood pieces from along the sidewalk thrown around, etc. Nothing serious.
- About half of the next bit of boulevard (nearer to Menzies) has been dug and sheet mulched; we will dig and mulch the other half in October, and then plant in the spring.
- We hope to set up a neighbourhood seed exchange (a bit of an experiment!) in the new section, something that operates like a little free library but for seeds. The volunteers have offered to tidy and tend it as part of their weekly gathering. We have obtained a free old Times-Colonist vending box, which is quite water-resistant, to repurpose for the seed exchange box.

Food Tree Stewardship project

- Well, we managed to keep the trees alive through a dry summer with bucket brigades. There's a small group (3) looking after the Todd Parkette trees and doing their own watering schedule. People working on the berry patch helped with Charles Redfern trees a bit, but we don't really have a cohesive, self-managing group there yet.
- I will be putting out a call for more stewards in the spring, as we have lost about half the original lot.

Berry Patch

- Planning has started, and we have had several meetings. Right now we are working on identifying constraints, such as the existing trees, pedestrian 'desire lines', and the sight lines that need to be kept open for traffic and other safety reasons.

Lewis St Herb Garden (proposed)

- So far, two volunteers have offered to help with this project. They are both people who live nearby and have tended the bed in the past. That's probably enough to get going with planning this fall, and then more can come on board when we actually start gardening.

Fall plant swap

- The swap was held on September 8 and we had a very good turnout – it was almost as active as the spring one. We made \$171.15.
- High points included: two new volunteers helping with the swap, more people bringing plants along to trade, and a separate table for tools, pots, and paraphernalia. And coffee and doughnut holes from Discovery Coffee. The New Horizons and Huntington Manor Hotel gardeners donated pots and Red Barn gave us a few of their end-of-season plants.

Ongoing activities

- I attended one Urban Food Table meeting and one Montreal St Community Garden management committee meeting (at their request).
- I wrote columns for the Beacon in Sept (plant sale) and Oct (community herb gardens)
- As usual, have been dealing with various enquiries. Most entertaining discussion: growing woad so you can paint yourself blue like an ancient Briton.