

Gardening Report to the JBNA Board, Feb & March 2023

Kathryn Pankowski, Garden Advocate

Most of the winter 'paperwork projects' and gardening jobs have been completed and we are 'revving up' for spring gardening and events. As usual, anything that needs particular Board attention is in bold.

Menzies/Michigan Seed Box Garden

- The updated agreement with Discovery Coffee has been signed and the volunteers will start gardening the area around the tree in the parking lot.
- The volunteers on this project helped the JB United Church "decolonize" a bed by removing invasive periwinkle and we'll be helping them develop and plant a new native woodland garden in its place in the fall.

The Wee Free Seed Box

- We are ramping up the number of seed packs we put out - and they are still disappearing in an hour or so each day.
- We have several new volunteers for this project.

Fisherman's Wharf Herb Garden

- We have bought and installed stepping stones to create public and gardener access through the lavender edging which we hope will solve the problem of people stomping directly on the lavender plants.
- We have finally begun working on the remaining 'grant projects', including a sign for the entrance. **QUESTION: Does the Board want to see and approve the sign content and design before we order it?**

The Food Trees

- Chris Adams did the spring pruning of the apple trees while 'talking through' the process with three of the tree stewards. This is the first time since the pandemic we've been able to do some education along with the pruning.

Huntngdon Manor Allotments

- The new agreement between the hotel and the JBNA has been signed.
- The sod has been turned over on all the new beds (making the site look a bit like a mass grave at the moment!) and compost has been delivered by the City. The aim is to have the beds ready by the end of April.

Lewis Park Commons Garden

- Our proposal's appearance before City Council was bumped from Feb to early April to late April, so it has not yet been approved. Nevertheless, a water tap has already manifested itself and a load of compost is expected to do likewise. So the unofficial volunteers will carry on gardening here until we get the official License of Occupation.

Montreal Street Berry Patch

- We resolved the irrigation problem mentioned in the last report: the irrigation system will remain connected and the volunteers will get a lesson from the City in how to maintain it.
- This proposal has also been delayed until the late April council meeting, so the Licence of Occupation has not been approved
- Work on installing the garden by Transportation's contractor is scheduled to start late May

Spring events

- Community mulch was delivered Mar 31 and disappeared in about 3 hours. We will need to order more next spring as demand has significantly increased.

Miscellaneous

- I wrote the usual Beacon columns
- We received the full amount requested for the Community Garden Coordinator Grant, plus the \$500 microgrant from the City