

2020 DeRivera Gardens Report

By Jean Hilt

Step 1. Contact Yardworks for garden prep: spring cleanup, weed prevention, plant food application including hydrangea-specific product, and mulching.

At the beginning of the season, mid to late May, Yardworks completed the spring cleanup, edged, applied weed prevention, fertilizer, and mulch.

Step 2. Gather a few volunteers to plant purchased annuals/perennials, and any donated perennials. Divide overcrowded perennials such as hostas, coral bells, etc.

Following the lamppost-basket-hanging project downtown, some annuals and some new perennials were planted in the various gardens. The annuals were ordered through Mill Hollow Nursery at the same time as the lamppost flowers and the past couple years included variegated sunpatiens. Various perennials were also purchased or divided/transplanted to replace plants that did not survive the winter. Perennials included some replacement grasses at the monument by the "Jet Express" garden, some donated hostas and ladies' mantle for the bathhouse garden, a couple replacement Rozanne geraniums, etc.

Step 3. Immediately after the gardens are planted, or even in advance, contact John Galvin and Ann Auger to ask that the irrigation/sprinkler systems be turned on. Then follow up to make certain they are operating correctly. If we have a lot of rain, they may wait to turn them on.

In the spring of 2020, John Galvin was contacted and the DeRivera Park system was turned on, but the Village section, which waters the Jet Express Garden and the *new* Boathouse Garden, was not turned on at the same time. Since the Village and the Park are two separate entities, the Village Administrator should also be contacted. A couple weeks went by with no water and little rain during a critical time when the annuals and newly planted or transplanted perennials needed much water. Also, the new Boathouse Garden got off to a rough start as the new trees needed some deep watering in addition to daily irrigation. Joan Booker and Sheri Murphy, the Boathouse garden team, stepped up, began bucket watering daily and a couple lamppost-basket-watering teams, Doug and Barb Mehling and Wes and Candy Baker, helped water with the golfcart to save these two gardens. We were especially concerned about the weeping cherry in the Boathouse garden that is a memorial tree for Beth Garstuk. Also, a new, larger sprinkler head was installed to replace the insufficient smaller sprinkler head in that garden.

Step 4. Solicit volunteers to maintain gardens during summer months. Teams of 2-4 members are formed either by the volunteers themselves or they will be assigned.

Maintenance includes extra watering when necessary, deadheading, trimming, weeding, fertilizing, general cleanup such as removing trash, cigarette butts, etc. *Weekly inspection* should be done at the very least. Also, if a problem is noted, like a leaning or broken tree or shrub that requires staked, or a waterline break, this should be reported.

Step 5. Keep in touch with teams. Respond to issues as soon as possible. Communication is important. Provide email addresses/cell phone numbers listing to all volunteers.

The summer of 2020 was a particularly challenging season because of the Pandemic. Some volunteers did not come back to the island until mid-June to early July. Masks were to be worn if we were working with someone or around the public.

This summer we had more than thirty 90+ degree days. Multiple waterline breaks occurred and, unbeknownst to us, the sprinklers were turned off for a period resulting in very dry gardens. Golfcart watering was again done on all gardens for a couple weeks by many volunteers to revive the especially dry gardens in time for Labor Day weekend. Once again everyone stepped up. The temperatures cooled and the gardens looked great at the end of the season!!!

Step 6. Contact Yardworks for fall cleanup.

Notes:

Tipplers garden: Too much sun for Heuchera (coral bells)? Broken hydrangea. Ask Yardworks 419-341-0765 to prune all to 18".

Boardwalk garden: *Kathy Schrader trims* Cat Mint in mid-July by watering heavily, then trim 2/3 off. Will bloom again.

Frosty's garden: Trim Cat Mint in mid-July by watering heavily, then trim 2/3 off. Will bloom again.

Trim lavender to just above the wood. **9/19/20 Jody will trim.**

Bathhouse garden: Will plant several varieties of hostas *next spring*?

Boathouse garden: Replacement plants for those that we lost (Sun King Aralias). Contact Todd. Ask: Are these really ok in the sunny garden? Per Jody's instructions, trim branches of weigela that are not variegated back to main branch.

Jet Express garden: Need new plants. Too many Sun King Aralias? Trim branches of weigela that are not variegated back to main branch in this garden also. 9/1/20 Contacted John Newlin to replace small sprinkler head with new larger one, similar to one in boathouse garden.

Sprinkler system contact for Park: **John Newlin email** Jjn@qualitysprinklingsystems.com 440-327-1936

Garden/Landscape Designer: All Seasons Maintenance Todd Giesen 216-408-3598