

St. Joan of Arc Landscape Team Report January- June 2014

This is the report of the activities and responsibilities of the St. Joan of Arc Landscape Team volunteers. This report will inform you of the activities that this ministry has accomplished. Please direct comments and questions to Jim Orband at 898-9403. Thank you.

The spring care of the church landscape has been very demanding on the landscape team. We made special efforts to ready the landscape for the Carnival. It was also difficult to schedule work days due to the amount of rain. We scheduled and canceled work (i.e. mulching at the pastors residence) depending on weather conditions.

With all of the spring rain, we have been vigilant with weed control. We applied 52 gallons of Round Up to church grounds which includes the landscape beds and edges, along the woods edge, all cracks and crevices, and weeds in the parking lot. In most cases, this includes two or more applications to the same location at different times. It is important to note that we do not use any herbicide that has any documented persistence in the environment. This means that we do not use Round Up in conjunction with a Preen or other pre-emergent herbicide in order to get 3-6 months of weed control. 3-6 months of control is called "persistence in the environment" and we do not use an herbicide that has that characteristic. For the safety of our parishioners, we use an herbicide that has been documented NOT to be "persistent in the environment". As a point of clarification, we do not use insecticides, miticides or fungicides on church premises. We remove plants that require these pesticide applications and we install plants that do not attract pests.

Landscape Team Quarterly Activities for January through June 2014

January 25 Bed Edging and Mulching Plants in the Moat

- Redefined the landscape bed edges around all Sycamore tree islands and all of the landscape beds in the rear of the parking lot. We cut back all of the Ornamental Grasses as well as transplanted some others.
60 man hours. Applied 20 yards of chips to the landscape beds. Wood chips were free.
- Troop 306 was very helpful with moving the wood chips to the landscape beds and the landscape team members spread and leveled the chips.
- A team member spent time doing detailed pruning of Vitex and Viburnum plants that add much color to the landscape. Dead branch removal and thinning were the specific pruning tasks.
4 man hours

January 27 Parking Lot clean up

- Used the Power Blower to blow all of the parking lots to remove fallen landscape debris.
9 man hours

February 15 Pruned Large Landscape trees

- Pruned all Trident Maples, Sycamores, and Sophoros in the moat area.
9 man hours

March 8 Piazza Clean up

- Clean up and pruning of all of the variegated lirioppe. Pruned nandenas and other plants in the piazza. Raked up debris and all of the Pin Oak fallen leaves. Hauled leaves to the woods for decomposition.
12 man hours

Special Project March: Daniel Urban, Eagle Scout Candidate Project

- An Eagle Scout Candidate from Troop 306 worked with his troop to clean up all of the debris in and around the storage sheds in the back parking lot and primed and painted the two sheds. He also installed a skirting material at the base of the sheds. The scouts used a Bobcat to pick up and load the trailers with debris.

Removed and recycled 1350 pounds of concrete debris.

Hauled 4 trailer loads of brush and landscape debris to compost facility.

Used 7 gallons of tinted primer on sheds; 11 gallons of finish coat paint (2 coats). (Marcy Avery selected the color at my request).

Carpenter framed and underpinned sheds with non-rotting T-111 look alike plywood.

This was a very successful project, completed in a timely fashion. The storage sheds now blend into the environment as planned. All miscellaneous items that were scattered around the sheds are now stored in the sheds or placed neatly behind the sheds. Thanks to the K of C for consulting with us on this improvement project.

April 16 Prune front Crape Myrtles and Clean up Piazza

Phil Leatherbury, George Fries, and I pruned the Crape Myrtles that are in the front of the church along Route 17. Last pruning was 7 years ago.

They require little pruning now that they are established. We only pruned them this time to thin the canopies of the trees to allow light and sun penetration. We also groomed the hydrangeas, nandenas and other plants in the piazza. Hauled landscape debris with 2 trucks and one trailer.
9 man hours

April 26 Cleaned, weeded, and mulched landscape at Father's Home

- Weeded newly established mondo grass bed. Pruned plants. Removed weeds and poison ivy. Spread parishioner donated pine needles. Removed all debris, swept, and watered the plants. Earlier in January, Chuck Walsh pruned off the fronds of the ferns in preparation for spring growth.
9 man hrs.

Several workdays were called in May to prepare the grounds for the SJA Carnival

May 1 Preparation of areas for a workday. Staged wood chips for easy spreading.
4 man hours

May 3 Clean up at the Mary Fisher House - Team Work Day

- Cleaned out the large plant bed in the front, pruned out dead plants, and edged the bed. In the foundation planting we pruned, weeded, and prepared for mulch. We applied 8 yards of wood chips.
51 man hours.

May 7 Prune plants in the landscape island in church front driveway

- Pruned loropetulum, abelia, maple, and juniper in the landscape bed. Weed out invasives. Hauled 2 truck loads of debris to compost facility.
7 man hours.

May 15 Weed beds and final landscape preparation before Carnival

- Hand weeded beds that had new weeds emerging after Round Up sprays. Detail pruning for specific areas. Hauled one truck load to compost facility.
10 man hours.

May 23 Prune the Holly Hedge

- We pruned the holly hedge that flanks the sidewalks into the church. This hedge has been intruding into the walking space and we pruned it to the concrete edge. We also hand trimmed the hedge to open the plant up for light penetration. We also pruned the Nellie Stevens Holly. Hauled 3 trucks full and one trailer of debris to the compost facility.
18 man hours.

June 7 Spruce Up of Harris Grove Lane side of the church

- 35 yards of regrinds mulch were moved and spread in the landscape beds that face the Harris Grove side of the church.
- Edged all of the landscaped beds on June 3 to prepare for mulch. All beds were sprayed for weed control. All plants were properly pruned. I checked to make sure that branches don't hang down to low to hit a person walking under a tree.
- Troop 306 assisted by wheel barrowing mulch to all of the landscape beds.
35 yards of mulch was donated to church. Jim Quail provided all hauling of mulch.
75 man hours

Special Project Through the months of June and July, Marty Cardwell and I cleaned the white brick in the piazza. We used Wet and Forget at a cost of \$66 (purchased from Costco with \$10 off per 2.5 gallon coupons). Wet and Forget is a solution that is sprayed with a back pack sprayer onto the brick and allowed to set up. We returned two weeks later to wash off and scrub parts of the brick. We did not have to use a power washer which has in the past has compromised the

mortar between the brick. The brick is clean but sections of iron staining remain due to the weeping of reinforcement wire. 12 man hours

This year we planted and maintain three colorful containers of annuals that are under the cross in the front of church facing Route 17.

Thank you to Jim Quail for his time and the use of his dump trailer to deliver regrinds mulch for our landscape project. Thanks to Anne McCann for the use of her hedge shears and power blower. Thanks to Bill McHenry for the use of his gas powered hedge shears.

We are reducing our use of regrinds mulch because a more difficult process has been implemented by the compost facility to acquire free mulch. I am using the regrinds in landscape beds that are close to and around the main church structure. I use the free wood chips in the more remote locations of the landscape. The donated wood chips are dumped in the wooded section of the back parking lot. The wood chips serve the purpose of water conservation, temperature moderation, and some weed control in the landscape.

It is a big job to maintain the parish grounds, Mary Fisher house, and Father's residence with donated parishioner help. I thank all members of the landscape maintenance team for their dedication and support. I have forwarded to the team Fr. Mike's thanks as well.

Summary of man hours and mulch spread from January through June 2014
296 man hours, 63 yards of mulch applied, lots of landscape debris hauled away.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Orband
Landscape Chair, July 2014
Photos attached



Before, During, and After photos of pruning and renovating the Holly Hedge.



Mary Fisher landscape after pruning, weeding, and mulching.



Preparing the landscape for mulching. Bill is taming the Nellie Stevens Holly.



This finished landscape on the Harris Grove Lane side of church looks good.



The colorful planters add a new dimension to the front of the church. The mulch adds the finishing touch. We do not plant any permanent material in this spot so that the space is available for the annual Christmas crezch.