

# St. Joan of Arc Landscape Team Report July- December 2014

This is the report of the activities and responsibilities of the St. Joan of Arc Landscape Team volunteers. Please direct comments and questions to Jim Orband at 898-9403.

Controlling young weeds in the landscape is the work of three volunteers on the Landscape Team. Phil, Chuck and I spend countless hours monitoring, mixing, and spraying herbicide to control weeds. As an example, I used 10 gallons of Round Up herbicide that took 4 hours to spray to prepare the area for the church picnic. In the past six months, we used 36 gallons of herbicide applied to the landscape beds, sidewalk/curb cracks and crevices, and other locations as needed. Our goal is to kill the weeds before they become significantly visible, thus making it visually pleasing for all who visit the grounds. I appreciate Phil and Chuck for their diligent work to keep the weeds in check.

## Landscape Team Biannual Activities

### Tuesday, July 8

#### Planted large trees at church

A workday was held to plant three understory flowering trees at the rectory. This is phase two of this project. In 2013, we cleared the unsightly undergrowth in the wooded sections around Father's home to create a park-like effect. With the addition of these flowering trees (dogwood and redbud) we will enhance the beauty in the area and encourage wildlife to frequent the area.

We also planted 26 variegated lirioppe plants near the dumpster at the office. There is a nice screen of Loropetulum there now and the lirioppe ties the planting together. All materials were mulched in and watered through the dry periods. All plants survived the summer and I am anticipating their spring color. All items were purchased from a wholesale nursery.

Plants	Cost	Value
Flowering Dogwood	\$77.40	\$132
Eastern Redbud	\$36.60	\$132
Variegated Lirioppe	\$109.20	\$220

### Friday, August 1

#### Fertilizing turf

I applied 200 pounds of granular 10-10-10 fertilizer on the grass in the moat in the back of the church and to the grass to the new property closest to the parking lot and before you get to the rope. I recognized that it was an effective application. Cost: \$109.90

### Thursday, August 7

#### Pruning Crape Myrtles for safety

On the north side of the church, the Crape Myrtles were overhanging the sidewalk. This was an unsafe area to walk because branches were low. The

trees were pruned so that people could walk under the trees unhindered. The project took Debbie and me two hours to complete. All debris was removed from the premises.

Task	Cost to Parish	Value
Pruning Crape Myrtle and Debris Removal	\$0	\$176

**Tuesday, August 19**

Sidewalk edging and maintaining stormwater erosion basin

One delightful evening in August, some team members met for an evening work effort! 1) We edged the sidewalk along the parking lot where grass had overgrown the edge. The edge overgrew because that is not a routinely edged area by the grass cutting crew. When the edge is properly maintained, the stormwater flows better into the stormwater drainage area. 2) We also dug and removed the sediment that had built up at the curb cuts and the curbing in the back of the parking lot to again ensure easy and proper flow of stormwater into the stormwater pond (moat). 3) We also spread and leveled mulch that we applied to bare soil thus reducing sediment movement into the stormwater pond. We power blew all hard surfaces with the Billy Goat. All of these efforts ensure that we pass the biannual inspections from York County’s Environmental and Development Services. There were 10 people that worked taking us 2 hours to complete these tasks.

**Thursday, September 25**

Pruning Large Trees on property for safety

We contracted with Bartlett Tree Experts to properly prune three large trees on property. The white pine on the north side of church was pruned to remove limbs that were overhanging onto the building. Some thinning was also performed. The Pin Oak located near the dumpster was thinned out and dangerous limbs that were in the canopy were also taken out. They are contracted to come back to prune the Willow Oak in front of the church. They will take off a large limb that overhangs the church building and thin out the canopy of the tree. I monitor these trees closely and I schedule the pruning work every 3 to 4 years.

Task Performed	Cost to the Parish	Value
Prune White Pine	\$340	\$340
Prune Pin Oak	\$255	\$225
Prune Willow Oak	Not completed, scheduled 2015	

**Wednesday, October 1**

Correcting soil pH

Three team members applied 1400 pounds of lime to the grounds that are closest to the buildings. Upon the results of a soil test, we applied enough lime to raise the soil pH to 5.9. The turf areas need to be at a pH of 6.2. I will test again in 6 to 12 months and will lime according to Va Tech recommendations. We used a team member’s lawn tractor with a drop spreader to apply the bulk of the lime and a push spreader for the difficult corners and edges.

Task Performed	Cost to Parish	Value
Apply lime	\$75.80	\$264.

**Monday, October 13**

Junk removal at Mary Fisher House

It was time to get rid of some outdoor junk around the Mary Fisher House. I took a truck load of old broken pots, unused lawn furniture, old umbrellas, old and odd sized lumber and miscellaneous junk to the Waste Management Center. I took apart some unsafe swings and in-ground benches. I used the power blower to clear the area of leaves and define a line between the lawn and the woods. I am working with an Eagle Scout candidate who has an interest in enhancing the use of this area.

**Tuesday, October 21**

Repairing Handicap Parking Area

Lance and I worked to repair the pavement of the handicap parking area in front of the JP II Center. There was a significant depression in the gap between the concrete and the asphalt, which was called to my attention by a person who recently saw a person fall onto the pavement because of the depression. Lance and I cleaned the area down 6 inches and put a Super Patch Driveway Sealer product in there and tamped. We attained a level surface and the area is now safe for all. The project took 23 hours to complete over a 3 week period.

Task Completed	Cost to Parish	Value
Repair of handicap parking area	\$72.75	\$1012

**Saturday, October 18, 2014**

Major Landscaping Workday

A beautiful fall day. We planned the workday at this time because the tasks that we performed on this workday are tasks that we traditionally scheduled in January. The past two years when we scheduled the workdays in January, they were cold, miserable days to work in. This workday was wonderful and as a result, a lot of work was completed.

- Boy Scout troop 306 provided 13 volunteers. The landscape team had 9 volunteers. This was a contribution of 66 man hours. Plus, in preparation for the day, I spent 8 hours pulling resources together as well as some landscaping pre staging. Jim Quail spent 6 hours delivering the 25 yards of mulch in the landscape beds so the team could move it easily.
- Bed edged, trimmed plants, pulled weeds, and removed dead plants in three different landscape beds. We applied 25 yards of regrinds mulch, donated from VPPSA.
- Pruned and sheared the Abelia and holly that were in need of a pruning job.
- Cut down and spruced up all of the ornamental grasses in the moat and around the church grounds. We also applied dumped wood chips in the landscape beds after the beds were raked and spruced up. We left enough ornamental grasses so that they could be used to decorate the crèche' roof top.

- The piazza was spruced up by cutting back the Knock Out Roses in front of the Our Lady of Guadalupe statue. All of the English Ivy was trimmed back and thinned out. The iris was cut back and transplanted into empty spaces. We removed one dead plant and planted a Sasanqua Camellia “Yuletide”, which we are enjoying it’s winter bloom now. Mulch was added to spruce the area up.
- The plants (Wax Leaved Ligustrum) in front of the JP II Center were sheared to ready the area for the Women’s Bazaar. All debris and weeds in the bed were removed.
- Two of the large wood chips piles were spread to landscape beds throughout the grounds and the grass areas were seeded. Only one pile remains and that will be moved in 2015.
- The pile of wood that was in the grass was moved, put up on pallets, and restacked in order to dry the wood out for our Lenten season and to allow grass to grow. The wood was placed along the woods edge for easy access and to be less of an eyesore.

Task performed	Cost	Value
80 man hours	No \$ Cost- Volunteers worked	\$6270.00
14 man hours	Volunteers	\$1400.00
Planted Camellia	\$ 7.80 wholesale	\$54.00
25 yds of mulch	Donation	\$325.00
3 truck and trailer loads removed	Took to the compost facility- no debris in church dumpster	\$326.00
<b>Total cost to church</b>	<b>\$7.80</b>	<b>\$8375</b>

All of this work was accomplished in a three hour period of time and we did not displace any activity at St. Joan. At noon we shared a lunch, generously donated by SJA parishioner and owner of Gloucester Chick-Fil-A, in the SJA Rectory Garden.

**Sunday, October 26, 2014**

Planting flowering trees in the understory

Fall is a great time to transplant.

5 hours were spent digging plants and relocating them to the Rectory landscape in order to accomplish the park-like atmosphere in the understory of the wooded areas. We are planting the understory of the woods with small flowering deciduous trees.

Task performed	Cost	Value
Transplanted 2 redbuds, 3 mondo grass	Donated plants	\$183
Planted 2 lilacs, one ninebark	Lilacs \$8.50 ea.,Ninebark \$17, All plants 50% off	\$134.50

**Saturdays in November and December: Nov 15 through December 20**

Vacuuming the Hard Surfaces around Church

Members of the Landscape Team worked every Saturday to reduce the volume of fallen leaves throughout the SJA campus. We vacuumed all walkways, the piazza, Father's driveway and back porch, as well as the area around the Mary Fisher House. This effort has created a safe and pleasing environment for all parishioners to come and go to the different church functions.

We used a high power blower to blow leaves off of the parking areas and we blew the leaves into the woods.

**Wednesday, November 19**

Planting flowering trees in the understory

The team planted 6 Eastern Redbuds and 3 Flowering Dogwoods, 1 Japanese Maple in the understory of the woods at father's house. We planted Nandina and Boxwood at the Mary Fisher House. This is the continued effort of enhancing the understory trees in the woods thus providing interest and a more park-like effect to the landscape. Several other planting and replanting efforts were done this day. We also vacuumed the lawn at the office because of the large volume of leaves from the Sycamore and the Scarlet Oak.

Task Performed	Cost	Value
Planted 9 trees and 10 shrubs	\$174.76	\$220
Other Horticultural Tasks	\$0	\$44

**December 13- Special Project/ Exciting News**

New signage at SJA

I have been working with Jack Spiller, an Eagle Scout Candidate, since June. Jack was interested in working with us at SJA and is from Scout troop 242 in Newport News. He is a parishioner at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. For his Eagle Scout project, Jack agreed to develop, prepare and mount new directional signs throughout the St. Joan of Arc Campus. He has replaced the existing directional signs with signs that will not warp, bend, mildew; will look good through the seasons; and all have the same logo for St. Joan of Arc. Jack was very effective in working with his scout troop to install these signs. Jack worked closely with the sign maker at Christopher Newport University and the vendor of the materials to make the signs. The vendors donated all supplies (approximately \$3,000 value). The new signs look very nice on the SJA grounds.

I thank the members of the landscape team for their continued dedication and support in maintaining the landscape at SJA. Without the support of team members it would not be possible to accomplish all of this work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Orband  
Landscape Team Chair, December 2014  
Photos attached



The before and after of the Crape Myrtle that is overhanging the sidewalk.



Bartlett Tree Experts removed large dead branches and thinned the tree canopy.



Repair of the Handicap parking Area. A dangerous divot formed, now repaired with crack filler.



25 yards of mulch spread throughout the landscape.



Ornamental grasses cut back, beds edged, wood chips applied and uniformly spread.



Unsightly wood pile (left photo) relocated to woods edge (right photo). Grass is now growing back. Woods edge is mulched with wood chips to create aesthetically pleasing edge and reduce growth of invasive weeds. Tarp is on wood to keep it dry.



Scouts remove a sign that was in disrepair in order to put up a sign that is maintenance free.



The Rt. 17 sign received attention and is now vivid again. The sign is reinforced and weather sealed.