

Cass Turnbull Garden Update April 2021

Work Party

March 27 turned out to be a nicer day than the weather service had been predicted, and the nineteen volunteers who came to work in the garden took advantage of every minute of it! Responding to a call for the first large-scale work party in over a year, the group was eager to get their hands dirty again after such a long hiatus. COVID protections were in place: volunteers worked in shifts, wore masks, and were assigned to small work groups.

Some worked in the nursery area under Nancy Short's direction. One group moved a dozen potted trees out of the nursery and down to the lower SW corner to create a small forest of visual screening along for the south wall above Prospect Street. Many thanks to Tracie Giles for overseeing the operation and for her "floral arrangement" in carefully siting each tree. Other volunteers worked with Nancy in the nursery itself to re-pot plants that had outgrown their containers, arrange plants in groupings by their watering needs, and re-define pathways through the nursery area.

Another group helped Don Brooks and Ken Tuomi plant a large oak leaf hydrangea donated by a plant lover in the Mount Baker neighborhood. The operation took all of Don and Ken's engineering know-how, digging prowess on the part of volunteers from the UW Landscape Architecture Program, and the mechanical advantage of chains, ropes, pulleys and a come along winch. With all of that working in concert, the 1500-pound root ball was inched into place in a grove that includes a Japanese Paperbark Maple and three Sir Charles Lemon rhododendron. The colors of bronze and green on each of the plants in the grouping interplay with one another in a captivating way.

Marianna Clark planted snowbells and hellebores in shady spots in the grove, while Penny Nichols and Roger Nelson faithfully ferried loads of arborists chips to her. One guessed that they probably preferred the level-ground trip to the grove over the up-hill and down-hill trips they had made earlier in the day while helping create the "instant forest" in the garden's lower SW corner.

The work party comprised seasoned volunteers who have attended all or most work parties, others who returned to the garden after long absences, and volunteers who came for the first time. In addition to those already mentioned, a sincere thanks goes to the others who helped: Marcia and Rich Appleton, Jack Bautsch, Brian Deck, Dinah Donaldson, Janis Hoffman, Connor McDermott, Josh Orendorf, Cil Pierce, Cass Salzwedel, Bennet Song, and Mary Wallon. The sense of community was palpable. We gathered at the end of the day to talk about what a great day we had and how gratifying it feels to be making progress on a project that will honor Cass and be a gift to the community. We look forward to our next work party on April 24. Newcomers are welcome. If you are interested, send a note to info@plantamnesty.org.

Meeting with Seattle Parks and Recreation

On April 12, Margaret Bullitt, Maggie Rogers and Jack Bautsch from PlantAmnesty, and Daniel Winterbottom from the UW's Landscape Architecture program will meet on-site with Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) personnel including David Graves and others whom he has invited. We will begin discussing how to proceed with planning for developing the south end of the garden site, including how to involve the community in the planning process.

Garden Tours Begin

One day the property on which the garden is located will become a Seattle Park. At that point, the garden-within-the-park will be open to the public. Until then, we are offering tours to interested visitors. If you would like to register for a tour, send an email to info@plantamnesty.org. The first tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, at 1:30 p.m. Of course, another way to see the garden is to join a future work party.



Fundraising Progress

In order to complete the garden, we have set a fundraising goal of \$195,000. These funds will allow us to install irrigation, to complete the south end design and construction, to create signage, to provide for tools and a tool shed, and to complete the lower section of the ADA path. Two generous individuals--Margaret Bullitt and a second anonymous donor--have put up a total of \$75,000 in challenge grants. To date, we have raised just under \$25,000 toward these challenges. If you would like to contribute to our fund drive, please visit the Spring Fundraiser section of the Cass Turnbull Garden page of our website: <https://www.plantamnesty.org/spring-2021-in-the-cass-turnbull-garden/>. Or you may email info@plantamensty.org for assistance.