

Cass Turnbull Garden  
Update June 7, 2021

We continue to make progress on the garden on several fronts: (1) the garden itself, (2) collaboration with Seattle Parks and Recreation, (3) guided tours for garden visitors, (4) establishing a Cass Turnbull Garden foundation, and (5) fundraising.

### **The Garden Itself**

Monthly work parties were held in April and May. A total of 34 volunteers contributed over 100 hours of labor during the two work parties combined. Their activities will be no surprise to any gardener: installing drip irrigation, re-potting or relocating plants, weeding, and mulching. Gravel was added to the lower ADA path to raise it to a height equivalent to the other sections of the path. New volunteers for the watering team—including a UW Landscape Architecture student who worked in the garden in winter quarter, and a dedicated soul who drove from her home in Anacortes--received a thorough orientation from Nancy Short on where and for how long to place sprinklers and which plants needed hand-watering. If you would like to be notified about future work parties, please send a note to [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org).

Sprinkler and hand-watering in the nursery area will continue for the foreseeable future, but such methods will soon be a thing of the past in the north section of the garden. Illiad Northwest began installation of an automated irrigation system on June 1 and expects to complete the work by the end of the month. Installation of automated irrigation in the north section of the garden will allow us plan for and plant the large open spaces in that part of the garden. Landscape architect Kate Day is donating her time to create the planting design, and will incorporate many of the plants in the nursery into the plan.

### **Collaboration with Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)**

On April 12, five of us met with several representative from SPR, including Andy Sheffer, the newly appointed Director of SPR's Planning, Development and Maintenance Division. This division is monitoring the work on the garden in anticipation of the day when the property—and the garden within it—will become a Seattle park. Andy has assigned us a new contact person, Senior Planner Kevin Bergsrud, who will assist with the next critical phases of the garden project: public outreach and permitting. We are hopeful of meeting with Kevin in June. We hope to have meeting with Director Sheffer to come to agreement and sign a Memorandum of Understand outlining the respective responsibilities of PA and SPR for the garden when SPR takes possession of the property.

### **Guided Tours for Garden Visitors**

Over seventy-five visitors have taken guided tours of the garden since we first started offering them in early May. Some have been the garden's Capitol Hill neighbors. Some have been Cass' close friends (The Cowgirls) or family members (sister-in-law). Some have been donors who have given large plants or significant financial gifts to the garden. Several have come in response to invitations extended to local garden clubs. Some gardening celebrities have visited, including Van Bobbitt (retired chair of South Seattle College's horticulture program) and Ciscoe Morris of "Oh La La!" fame. Tours are offered on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Would-be visitors can register for a tour through the Cass Turnbull page on the PlantAmnesty website.

### **Establishing a Cass Turnbull Garden Foundation**

We have taken some first steps toward setting up a separate non-profit foundation that will support the garden long-term. We have secured the services of a lawyer, Pamela Grinter, who is offering her services

at a substantially reduced rate. We are currently recruiting people to serve on the foundation's board. If you are interested, please send a note to [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org).

### **Fundraising**

At webinars in February and March, we announced a fund-raising goal of \$195,000. These resources were targeted for (1) irrigation in the garden's north section, (2) completion of the design and installation of the south section, (3) interpretive signage, (4) tools and a tool shed, and (5) completion of the ADA path in the north section of the garden. Two generous donors offered challenge grants of \$25,000 (anonymous donor) and \$50,000 (Margaret Bullitt). As of this date (June 6), we have raised \$41,000 of the \$75,000 needed to access both challenge grants. Our goal is to raise the remaining \$34,000 by the end of September. Contributions are welcome and can be made through the PlantAmnesty website (<https://www.plantamnesty.org/product/donation-cass-turnbull-garden-level/>) or by contacting [info@plantamnesty.org](mailto:info@plantamnesty.org).