

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Landscaping in the Time of Covid | Accomplishments | Thanks

Landscaping in the Time of Covid

Conservation Garden

A major decision was to use low cost landscaping to solve erosion and drainage issues. Our first project was the Conservation Garden at the corner of the single tennis court. After a rain event the area next to the court was a swampy pool for days. As of last year, that has disappeared.



June 11, 2021, 4:46PM

Fern Birtwistle and I began as the Landscape Committee co-chairs in August 2019. One of our first initiatives was to do a tree survey. I come from a museum background and collections management is a key component for any education institution. What objects do you have to tell your story?

The survey was informative telling how many trees we had (about 500) and what species. The Red Cedar that line King Street remain our largest holding with Crape Myrtle the second. Red Cedar is a native and requires almost no maintenance. On the other hand, Crape Myrtle requires constant pruning costing upwards of 7K a year.

The second initiative was to educate ourselves in the latest best practices by attending a NOVA Native Symposium about using native plants for landscaping needs. Yes, we drank the KoolAid and decided that this would inform the direction we would take. This happened at the same time that like-minded Fairlington gardeners created a group of landscape committees, master gardeners, and others who were promoting the same ideas. The use of native plants for landscaping is also supported by Arlington and Fairfax Counties, as well as NOVA Natives.

That survey lead to a campaign to rejuvenate the King Street fence line with only native tree and shrub species. This became a three year project starting near Wakefield Street and continuing down to Court 6. It is still a Work In Progress (WIP) with gaps here and there. A total of 30 trees were planted and paid for by the Board, and an additional 16 free trees were received from EcoAction Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund.



June 12, 2021, 11:22AM

Native Plant of the Month



Butterfly Weed with Swamp Milkweed larva. (Thankfully, they do not read)

The Landscape Committee

Fern Birtwistle, Sue Davis, Penny Glass, and Judith Guerny (emeritus)

Find out more about other Fairlington Gardeners at <https://www.facebook.com/FairlingtonGardening/>

Accomplishments

Projects in FY 19 - 20 include:

- Receives one free tree from EcoAction Arlington
- Creates monthly newsletter
- Attends a symposium about using native plants in condos and HOA's sponsored by Plant NOVA Natives.
- Begins Phase One of the King Street Rejuvenation.
- Joins Fairlington Gardeners, a group of landscape committees, master gardeners, and garden enthusiasts in Fairlington that meet quarterly to discuss mutual concerns.

Projects in FY 20 - 21

- Receives six free trees from EcoAction Arlington.
- Writes monthly articles for the All Fairlington Bulletin under the title "For the Love of Nature" as part of the Fairlington Gardeners group.
- Installs small pollinator gardens in Courts 7 to 15.
- Plants Phase Two of the King Street Rejuvenation.
- Installs a small erosion control landscape in Court 11.

Projects in FY 21 - 22

- Receives nine free trees from EcoAction Arlington.
- Completes King Street Rejuvenation in Court 6.
- Installs new shrubs and trees to replace those that have died around the Mews.
- Removes large ivy and other invasive ground covers in the Mews.

Thanks

We think we've accomplished a great deal in the last three years. There is always more to do and that will be for someone new to pick up and follow. Just as Board members are elected to three year terms, I have completed my third year and am in need of a break. I am rotating off the Landscape Committee at the end of July. Needless to say, others are welcome to take the helm and move forward.

We would like to thank the board for their support by approving the projects that we recommended. Thanks to all of our volunteers, known and unknown, who have watered, weeded, and helped make the Mews a more beautiful place to live.