

## St. Joan of Arc Landscape Team, September 2024

Thank you for your effort and time spent Thursday morning weeding, clearing, sprucing up, and seeding the Rectory Back Garden. You did a great job and the soil conditions were difficult but fortunately the weather was good AND we completed all of the tasks.

One priority reason for this workday was to get rid of plants, structures and debris that might harbor insects such as mosquitoes and gnats. We did these preventative measures:

- Took down an old and rotted structure designed for the dog run.
- Lots of raking and leveling of leaves to reduce any puddling of rain.
- Applied mosquito dunks (a mosquito larvicide) to the drainage pit near the back porch.
- Dug the old, non-draining soil and rock out of the condensate chase near the A/C unit to a depth of 12 inches; back filled with erosion control cloth and drainage rock with no sand or binders in the rock. Put a mosquito dunk on the top of the pit.
- Put mosquito dunks into the drainage swell located in the moat.
- Hooked up the “ Dynatrap”. This is a free standing, electrical device that is located on the back porch that uses an infrared bulb to attract mosquitoes and other flying insects and kills them.

PESTOUT did come by to apply an aerial fogger for further adult mosquito control.

It is hoped that continual vigilance and attention to this insect issue will result in reduced population. An important note: we will not eliminate a naturally occurring organism from this habitat. Making the habitat less attractive is our goal. The landscape team members did these tasks with this goal in mind.

### **Landscape Tasks Accomplished**

#### **Landscape Bed Clean Up**

There was plenty to do in the landscape beds. Plants were limp due to the recent dryness, weeding was plentiful and roguing some strong growing Iris was important to do. All of this was done as we prepare for the upcoming seasons bringing in the cooler temperatures and ridding the garden of any invasives. This task was a needed task and performed well.

#### **Shaping and Grooming Landscape Plants**

Attention to detail of the shape of the landscape plants was a job well done. The Loropetulum, Gardenias, and Camellias were all out of bounds and out of shape and we spent time properly shaping them with detailed pruning techniques. Thank you also for planting the 6 Christmas Ferns in very hard and difficult soil to dig in. Thanks

for fixing the metal fencing which helps to keep Duffy from digging under the porch. Because you repaired this, mowing the back grass will be an easier task.

### **Repair of the Dog Run**

The area of the dog run looks great because of your thorough attention to getting rid of all of the debris and raking level the fallen leaves. Pulling and removing the jasmine vines helps to control the growth of a very invasive vine. Removing the dog curtain reduces the debris in the area. Keeping the path blown free of leaves and needles allows for use whenever needed. Thank you also for pulling up all of the Paw Paw trees which can invade and populate the area. We do not want that to happen. I appreciate you putting the hoses together in order to irrigate the back garden.

### **Preparation for and Overseeding the Lawn**

What a difficult task this was due to dryness of the soil... and you did it. Thanks for seeding the area with perennial grass. With watering the seed daily, the lawn will be up in 5-7 days. Mosquitos in the back-porch area are abundant. Our effort to use mosquito dunks, provided by York County, in the open drainage culvert will help to reduce that insect population. As well, thank you for digging out the debris forming in the A/C condensation pit which is where the mosquitos are able to breed. You dug down 12 inches removing a lot of wet debris, laid landscape fabric on the bottom, put 6 inches of stone on top, put in another landscape fabric on that stone and then put in 6 more inches of drainage rock to the top. This effort will help to reduce the mosquito population in the area.

**Cost to St. Joan of Arc= \$71.00 for purchasing seed, fertilizer, lime, drainage rock**

**Contractual Labor Price= 5 staff X \$90.00/hr X 2.5 hrs = \$1,125**

One truck load of branches, weeds, raked up moss and other landscape debris items was loaded and taken to the Composting facility. Earlier this week, I delivered a load of miscellaneous landscape debris from church to the compost facility. This is a savings to the church because we do not have to pay a tipping fee at the dump.

Thank you for all of your efforts and skill in completing these tasks. The completed landscape tasks were sorely needed, done with great skill, and I look forward to seeing the revived landscape and green turf.

I wish you well during this fall season.

God Bless You.

Jim