

BELL TOWER PARK LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**Submitted by Dan Kerinuk, Chairman
05-06-25**

The Landscape Committee has been very busy over the past few months. There has been a significant amount of planning, shopping, negotiating, reporting and even some actual action. We have installed planters, plants, irrigation, and ground cover at the main entrance Gate House. The plants seem to be thriving and are perennial so we will not incur additional expense as we have in the past with annuals. This planting cost us less than \$1500 for gatehouse and two island end caps.

Additionally, we have POA approval to remodel the boulevard island end caps with large specimen quality Agave plants and ground cover, which should take place this month. Included in this project will be irrigation modifications as well as relocation of several bromeliads already in place. This project is designed to eliminate the need for our rather skimpy plantings of annuals and their expense. The entrance and the two island end caps will cost just over \$7000.

Another project that has been in the works, but funds have not been allocated is the front property wall. There is a large building visible which we would like to camouflage and while we are at it, we will extend the plantings to the end of the street precluding the view of any buildings in the future. The plan is to use a variety of clumping bamboo. The plants are not invasive but grow to significant heights and get very thick. Using various varieties will provide different colors and stalk shapes that will make the plantings interesting. This is a big project and will cost nearly \$10,000.

The next thing on our list is the screening of the county plant life on our boundary along Kensington Loop. The area is currently OK, "kind of" ugly but works as a deterrent to unauthorized entrance. However, if/when the county decides to trim, we will be exposed to the 10 Mile Creek waling path as well as significant traffic noise. So, we think we should be proactive on this border and build a wall of beautiful flowers and foliage that has some "bite". With that in mind we have proposed using a planting of various colored bougainvillea. We can start small, think cheap, and they will grow rather quickly into a very prickly hedge that no one would go through unless really committed. The small plants are really inexpensive, but we need a lot of them and the estimate to complete the planting is \$7060. But it will keep the plants close to prevent those unwanted visitors.

The last project we have explored is the Owner's Entrance. As you know this is where we all come and go! And it is OK but some easy improvement could save us a significant amount of expense. Let's face it, there is a lot of mulch, and it only looks good for a short while. With that in mind, we have looked into a couple solutions. We have found four varieties of ground cover that are reasonably priced. The big expense in this project is getting the plants in the ground but they would eliminate the need for mulch while adding beauty to our entrance. The second thought is flowing perennial plants, which would be grown from seed and therefore even "cheaper" but with a less "sure" result. In fact, so cheap we may try it and see how it goes before our final solution the ground cover at \$7050. We will keep you informed.

Some of the ongoing challenges are sod replacement, monitoring assigned neighborhood areas, ARC proposals, reducing the size of mulch beds, and reviewing information submitted via the "Zen Desk". Of course, we are also dealing with daily issues as they arise, dead plants, skimpy or missing sod, trees that are dangerous to humans, and other odds and ends.

You will see our hardwood trees trimmed by a certified arborist in the next month or so and we have fertilization soon, if it ever starts to RAIN! Additionally, GreenScapes is continuing their 8-week cycle of trimming and pruning and will continue spot mowing until that rain shows up when they will resume weekly mowing, edging and blowing.

GreenScapes also has irrigation personnel on site 3 days per week. **IF YOU SEE AREAS THAT ARE NOT IRRIGATED REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO ZEN DESK.** It is better to over report than lose landscaping. If you are unsure if an area is not being irrigated place a small bowl in the area and then check it in the morning.

We hope this recap helps you to be more tolerant of what we are and are not getting done for our community. We will keep reporting in about each quarter.

Thanks

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