

## **2021 Whitley County Master Gardener's Committee Overview**

### **Courthouse Garden**

Chair: Judy Wright

The garden was planted in late May. The committee was challenged by the soil conditions and limited budget provided by the County. The soil was amended with donations from the Master Gardener committee members. The committee used a design plan that included a red, white and blue theme using salvia, alyssum and vinca.

### **Extension Garden**

Chair: Debby Vincent

Activities/Goals:

Sign Garden: Planned/established in 2019. Native plants filling in from 2020 seeding and transplants. More seeding in 2021. Mulch from Morshes Park. Plants labeled.

Native Shrub Garden: Planned in 2020. 2021: Grass dug out. Soil brought in from donation pile at Fairgrounds. Bare root shrubs installed. Cardboard placed over remaining grass. Mulch from Morsches Park. Plants labeled.

2022 Plans: Maintenance both gardens. Hope exterior spigot will be installed in rear of Extension building in 2021. Label new seedling species when they emerge.

Committee members helped with installation and maintenance of both gardens. Work Release Crew helped dig out grass/spread soil in Shrub Garden. Seeds/plants donated by various master gardeners. To expand native plant diversity, seeds also purchased from Prairie Moon Nursery.

### **Garden Walk**

Chairs: Ann Smith, Jo Ellen Gross

Chairs for 2022: Jo Ellen Gross and Theresa Chenery

The Whitey County Master Gardener Garden Walk was held June 19, 2021 and featured 7 gardens. The gardens centered around the Crooked Lake area. A pre walk reception was held on June 16 with garden owners and artists as guests. It was a very successful event in spite of the challenges imposed by COVID 19.

Next years gardens have been chosen and the walk will be centered in the Churubusco area.

### **Grant Committee**

Chair: Mary Ann Anderson

Granted \$250.00 to Giving Gardens for program for children in our community. Granting an additional \$250.00 to Giving Gardens to expand children's educational programing. As we move into the future would like to expand the organizations that apply for the grants.

### **Humane Society**

Chair: Sue Farris

Members provide design, planting and maintenance at these gardens. In the spring there is garden clean-up with mulch delivered and spread, and tall grasses cut back. Efforts are directed for the reminder of spring/summer/fall toward weed control and pruning. Many plants spread by self-seeding, and Master Gardeners work to control this to areas desirous of further spread.

### **Master Gardener Gardens at 4 H Grounds**

Chair: Beth Ann Sickafoose

#### Activities and Goals Completed in 2021

Planted colorful tulips and other spring bulbs  
Did annual mulching  
Planted a lovely intern garden  
Added new perennials in some gardens  
Wedding garden had an added new sign and planter  
Did our best to keep an attractive display throughout the blooming time

#### Future Goals for 2022

To invite our new interns to help with gardens  
To continue to update and provide attractive varieties of plants in our gardens  
To continue to care for our gardens and be proud of what we display

### **Parks**

#### *Columbia City Parks*

Chair: Jeannine Nix

There are 13 City gardens including Morsches Park. Members provide design, planting and maintenance at these gardens to help beautify our community. Education is also provided by having plants identified with labels. 18 Master Gardeners and 17 other community volunteers care for 8 gardens at Morsches Park and 5 gardens in other areas of Columbia City. A major focus this year was taking down 2 diseased trees and replacing them with disease resistant varieties with the help of the Parks Department. Time also was spent planning how to make the gardens more manageable in terms of care provided.

### *Churubusco Parks*

Chairs: Linda Reuter and Annette Gump

Our goal has always been to make our 8+ gardens in the park self-sufficient, easily maintained and constantly in bloom. Since our perennials are now mature & doing well, the past few years we have begun to add more annuals, which we plan to continue in 2022.

In Churubusco our park is the hub of all area summer activities, our goal is to make it a place of pride for the community.

### *South Whitley Parks*

Chairs: Beth Ann Sickafoose and Ann Smith

Activities/ goals in 2021: Maintenance of South Whitley County Park downtown; maintenance of town entry signs both west and north of town;

Future Goals/Activities in 2022: They have asked us to design and maintain an additional small park in town when they have it ready

### **Patriotic Garden at 4 H Center**

Chair: Judy Wright

Since our perennials are now mature & doing well, the past few years we have begun to add more annuals, which we plan to continue in 2022.

In 2021 mulch was added to the garden. Plants added to the garden include 1 red rose bush and 2 white guara plants. The goal of plantings is to keep it a red-white-blue theme. Future plans include changing out the normal annual flowers from begonia to vincas.

### **Seminar**

Chair: Terri Christl and Mary Haynes

Presentations for the community were held on July 20 during the Whitley County 4-H Fair. These included:

Alan Boggs Myths, Mistakes and Musings of a Landscape Gardener

Duane Janssen Senior Center Vegetable Garden

Rachel Alexander Giving Gardens of Indiana

### **Senior Center Vegetable Garden**

Chair: Duane Janssen

Members helped design, plant and maintain a vegetable garden using raised beds and other adaptive gardening methods. Yield from the garden was used to provide produce to the senior center lunch program, both on site and delivered meals.

### **Symposium**

Chairs: Jan Barkley and Kim Jewell

The 2021 Symposium was canceled due to COVID 19. The committee looked forward to 2022, and began planning a theme and speakers. It was decided in late October that the 2022 Symposium would need to be canceled due to COVID 19. Jan Barkley has resigned as co-chair as move into 2022.