

Benton County Master Gardeners Annual Report by Committee

Committee Name: Fairgrounds Entrance Beds

Date/Year: 2022 **Months of Activity:** year-round maintenance, mostly spring and summer development

Contact Person with e-mail address: Kathy Clark, Chair. clarks@proaxis.com

Names of Committee Members:

Cyndie Shaner, Rich Taylor, Sally Elliot, Jackie Calvert, Shannon Long, Kathy Alexander, Debbie Birdseye, Mary Ann Carr, Becky Howell, Nancy Tovar, Jamie Brown, Jill Farrow, Wendi Gale, Frank Garcia, Steve Kunke, Ina Mikhaylova, Carol Canham Terrill

Basic Purpose of Committee: Create and maintain sustainable, attractive demonstration landscapes for the south entrance at the Benton County Fairgrounds

Estimate of Total Hours Volunteered: Because teams work independently on their gardens, I can't give a figure.

Goals for this year:

1. Keep each garden well staffed
2. Increase educational value of beds
3. Provide needed materials for garden development

Specific tasks:

1. Welcome and support those working in the gardens
2. Continue work toward establishing themed educational purposes.
3. Monitor need, interface with Fairgrounds staff

Has the committee made any changes this year that made contact or project more efficient or met the educational goal better?

Two gardens made exceptionally fast development this year. The Cottage Garden (Jamie Brown) and the Native Garden (Becky Howell) received many compliments during Fair, thanks to their dedicated work. They have adjoining gardens and support each other in the design and work sessions. The Children's Garden (Jill Farrow) benefited from work over three years and now has reached full potential.

Are there any recommendations, tasks or areas of information the committee wants to pursue over the next year?

- Install signage for Bird, Cottage, and Native gardens. Waiting for new logo.
- Improve website information as gardens progress.
- Work toward more public interaction, as feasible.

BUDGET AND FUNDING: Project was almost adequately funded. Some plants were acquired from the inventory of the Plant Sale Committee. Others with specialized needs, such as the Native and Cottage gardens which underwent intensive planting, required more nursery purchases than usual. I supported this budget overrun because it is a short-term need and to encourage the volunteer effort.

Submitted by Kathy Clark, December 10, 2022