

UUCGT Landscaping Team

Annual Report 2018

The UUCGT Landscaping Team was formed in 2017, with a mission to create a comprehensive and holistic plan for our grounds, honoring our tradition of being a welcoming congregation, and our 7th UU Principle: *“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”*

In the Fall of 2017, we began with 2 Walkabouts covering our property. This allowed us to look at our property as a whole, and ideas began to emerge quickly. The Team continued meeting throughout the winter months to develop our ideas.

- We quickly determined that we could/should select a couple of projects as our top priorities for 2018:
 - Doing so allows people to become involved in doing something, as opposed to meeting and planning (which is not for everyone)
 - We agreed that when people see something being done, they are more likely to want to *do* something as well.

With that in mind, we chose two ideas which surfaced: 1. landscaping our entry (by the sign at Center Road) so that it looks like “we are here, and you are welcome here!”; and 2. a Meandering Path through the whole property, winding around the property with areas for sitting and contemplation, signage at places of interest (e.g. the massive red Oaks we have, which are at this time still healthy, and the Fort cooperatively built and maintained by our UU children).

These ideas allow us to begin **doing**, and further ideas (there were many!) will continue to be developed.

- We adopted a planting policy to guide us, as well as future iterations of this Team:

The Landscaping Team affirms that for all projects, native plants are preferred. In any cases where non-native plants are planned, those should be researched and found to be non-invasive or otherwise not harmful to our environment (e.g. if they are harmful for local populations of birds, animals, insects, etc., native alternatives must be sought).

In established plantings, existing plants will be respected, native or not. Maintenance as needed (such as thinning, pruning) may be done, but plants will not necessarily be removed. The history of these plantings must be researched and respected (e.g. if planted in Memoriam, or who planted/donated them).

- We named Clarence Kroupa as Member Emeritus, due to the copious number of trees he planted here.
- We developed an Annual Plan template, which can be used to guide future Landscape Teams [see next page for 2018 Plan to date].

UUCGT Landscaping Team Annual Plan 2018

| Area | Early Spring April/Early May as soon as snow is gone | Late Spring Mid to late May | Early Summer Generally June | Mid Summer July | Late Summer August-Sept | Winter Prep Sept-Oct |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Meandering Path | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flag It, as much as possible according to weather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begin removing obstacles, clean-up parties ● Plan Sign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continues... ● Get sign ● Compute distance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ... | Trail Walk!! & Party (of course) |
| Welcoming Entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch for any recurrence of J. Barberry, remove ● Irrigation planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ...continue barberry maintenance ● Prune Juniper ● Prepare ground for new plantings ● Obtain and place plants | | | | |
| Front Circle | | | | | | |
| Office Area | | | | | | |
| Parking Oval | | | | | | |
| Misc. | Dormant Pruning: B. Scharf | Invasive Plant Walkabout: B. Scharf | Lilac Pruning Demonstration: L Keinath | | | |