

MOROSS GREENWAY UPDATE

BEFORE & AFTER: *Every Picture Tells a Story*

2011



2017





Black Young Professionals of Detroit at the spring 2017 Community Clean-up Day

Fall Clean-Up is October 21

Our fifth annual Fall Community Clean-Up Day takes place on Saturday, October 21. Volunteers will meet at 9:00 am at Grace Community Church, located at 21001 Moross Road, a block east of the I-94 service drive.

The I-94 expressway on and off ramps will be the main focus of this year's effort. Due to the high traffic volumes on these ramps, parents are discouraged from bringing children younger than high school age.

Volunteers can also assist in planting spring daffodil bulbs that day.

Water, day-glow vests and trash bags will be provided. Wearing gloves and sturdy footwear is encouraged. Bring a rake, if you have one! Volunteers planning to plant spring bulbs should bring a trowel.

Be sure to mark your calendars now and check our website, MorossGreenway.org, for up-to-date information on the Clean-Up.



Workshops Offer Hands-On Gardening Advice

This year, Moross Greenway debuted two hands-on workshops designed for the backyard gardener.

These free, hands-on sessions held in the garden beds of the Greenway offered participants the chance to learn first-hand from professional gardener and board member Mildred Hurley, of A Southern Gardener.

Eager gardeners learned the importance of proper pruning for the healthy growth of shrubs and trees in a **Spring Pruning Workshop**. Armed with pruners and loppers, Mil demonstrated the correct technique for proper branch removal and then participants took a turn testing their new knowledge on the crapple trees and shrubs on the Greenway.

Gardeners at the **Summer Pollinators Workshop** got a birds' and bees' eye view of plants that they love. While touring Moross Greenway, Mil Hurley pointed out the trees, shrubs, and perennials that attract pollinators and discussed the importance of these species in sustaining our ecosystem.



Above Left: Butterfly Weed on Moross Greenway



Inclement weather didn't detract from our Pruning Workshop

"When designing the garden beds for Moross Greenway, we gave design priority to plants and trees that attract beneficial pollinators," noted Mil. "These plants attract birds, bats, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants. Between 75% and 95% of all the earth's flowering plants need help with pollination."

Pollinators travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies and are crucial to the reproduction of flowers, fruits and vegetables.

One gorgeous Moross Greenway plant for example, the butterfly weed (far left), is crucial to the very existence of the monarch butterfly. It is also known as swamp milk weed and by its Latin name, *Asclepias Tuberosa*. Butterflies are attracted to the plant by its color and its copious production of nectar. It is also the larval food plant of the queen and monarch butterflies. Hummingbirds, bees and other insects are also attracted to it.

Be sure to check our website often for notices of future programs at MorossGreenway.org.

Board Member Spotlight: Claudine Fets

As a founding member of the Moross Greenway Project, Claudine has been a key board member since 2010 when the idea of improving the median islands along Moross Road germinated during a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Commission on which she served. From its inception, Moross Greenway has benefitted from Claudine's positive energy and can-do spirit. Not afraid to dig right in, she has been a leader in our semi-annual Community Clean-Up Days. Claudine has also served on the Project's design committee. As a real tree lover, she contributed her expertise in the selection of evergreens which now dot the Moross landscape.

"It's really difficult to imagine Moross Road without the Moross Greenway landscape," notes

Claudine. "Just try it next time you're passing by. I'm so proud of what we have achieved and we have our donors and volunteers to thank. None of this would have happened, though, unless our dedicated board members persevered and trusted the dream."

When not on the Greenway, you can find Claudine on the tennis court. However, her loyalty lies with Moross Greenway as she recently gave up the opportunity to play in a State tennis tournament to be on hand for our Transplant Day. She loves her work on the Greenway and it shows!



Fall Transplant Day

Every seasoned gardener knows that gardens are not static! They change all the time, growing bigger with the addition of plant material, shrinking when plants die or changing appearance when plants are moved. Gardeners know that adjustments need to be made from time to time to make sure all the plants thrive and that they complement the nearby plants.

So too, for Moross Greenway. Our recent Transplant Day was an opportunity for us to tweak the landscape. After a year or more of carefully monitoring the landscaped beds, we learned that, even with the most professional guidance, some plant varieties were not thriving in their locales.

So thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers, we moved hundreds of plants on a warm and sunny day in mid-September. We discovered, for example, that one bed of approximately 450 coral bells did not like their sunny, tree-less home, so we moved them to the shade of a large maple on another island. Likewise, a grouping of salvia was suffering from too little sun under that same tree, so we switched beds.

Some plant varieties like to get their feet wet and others need to keep their roots from getting soggy. Here too, we will be moving some

plants to the middle of beds where moisture is less of an issue.

Our volunteer board members monitor the beds twice a month during the growing season and note any issues they might encounter. Our volunteers are trained to look for yellowing leaves that may mean too little water (or too much), holes in leaves that may signal an insect infestation and water ponding that may indicate an irrigation leak. With regular monitoring and action to correct any problems, our gardens will remain healthy and beautiful for a long time to come.



Sheila O'Hara



Anne Burke

Claudine Fets

Board Members Honored

The Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Commission has honored three founding board members of the Moross Greenway Project with a Beautification Award. Sheila O'Hara, Claudine Fets and Anne Burke received the award on October 10 at a ceremony held at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park Activities Building for their pioneering work in the project.

"Anne, Claudine and Sheila are each receiving a special recognition award for their tireless efforts to make the Moross Greenway project a reality," said Lev Wood, Commission Chair. "Thanks to these ladies, and the efforts of others, the islands on Moross Road serve as an attractive welcome to drivers entering our city."

The award recipients each received a beautiful Pewabic tile depicting the city logo.

Help Us Keep Moross Greenway Beautiful

The success of the Moross Greenway Project now relies on regular maintenance to keep the islands looking spectacular and we are asking for your help.

Native plants have been used in the landscape to help reduce the need for long-term maintenance. Natives can thrive in cold winters, hot summers, and wind. Our design plan takes into account that once mature, these plants will fill the beds and leave little room for invasive weeds to sprout. Moross Greenway's plant selection includes those varieties that don't require regular pruning or trimming.

While long-term planning is important, the first few years of maintenance are critical. The drip irrigation system will be operational for the first three to five years to ensure that the plants are established. Water and electric costs (to run the irrigation system) are unavoidable. Mulch keeps weeds to a minimum, although periodic weeding is necessary to keep the beds healthy and beautiful. Turf is mowed and edged on a regular basis from April through October.

The Moross Greenway Project counts on donations from our supporters to cover these costs. We are determined to keep Moross Road beautiful, but we can't do it alone.

Please visit MorossGreenway.org to donate securely online. Or mail in the form on the back page with your donation. Every single dollar is appreciated!



Drip irrigation ensures plants get a strong start

MOROSS  GREENWAY

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UPDATE

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-Mahatma Gandhi

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