

https://www.chronicleonline.com/lifestyle/community/sprucing-up-the-landscape-in-floral-city/article_b9d87f78-c078-11ea-a4c7-a390069bcb62.html

Sprucing up the landscape in Floral City

Jul 7, 2020



"Some of the Floral City Garden Club workers who have been sprucing up three of the landscaped areas in the village include Kelly Wood with his dog Buster, Clark Peichert (a Brooksville neighbor), Carol Wood, Ralph Johnson, Janie Stewart, Carol Kanka, Sandy Van Tassel, Sue Reichert (a Brooksville neighbor) and Amber Persyn. Those participating and not pictured include Kathy Lingusky, Mary Graff, Doris Ostrander, Chris Nichols, Diane Freund, Lynn Hood and Sandy Doughman.

Special to the Chronicle

There is no moss growing under the feet of the Floral City Garden Club members. That is because during these times that the club is not holding meetings, they are out their village tending to the numerous landscaped areas they have created.

Members spent several days in June and are adding more days in July to weeding and mulching. That layer of mulch will provide an important barrier for the weeds and retainer of moisture for the plants this summer. When the last bag was spread, 16 of the club members had worked for 15 hours and had placed 75 — yes 75 — bags of mulch in the three major gardens downtown.



In the early 1990s the area beside the Floral City Library needed some enhancing. The Floral City Garden Club developed a Community Memorial Garden there in 1993 and dedicated the first in-ground labyrinth in Citrus County in 1995. There are no names in the garden — only memories — but individuals have made donations in memory of loved ones and their names are recorded in the Memorial Book kept in the library next door.

Special to the Chronicle

The oldest garden that has been maintained by the club is the Floral City Community Memorial Garden initiated in 1993 and dedicated in 1996. “There are no names, only memories,” is the slogan for this well established area between the Floral City Library and the Masonic Lodge No. 133 in the Town Center. The garden features the first in-ground labyrinth constructed in Citrus County. It is open 24/7 without charge. Donations in memory of loved ones may be made to the club and are recorded in the Memorial Book retained in the library for review.

The Floral City Gateway Sign and landscaping dedicated in October of 2003 was one of the “actions” from the 2001

Floral City Vision Action Plan. It was a joint project with the county (who constructed the stone sign structure), the Floral City Heritage Council (who created and maintains the wooden sign portion) and the Garden Club (who designed, planted and maintains the landscaping). This sign is located at the east end of the village on Orange Avenue/County Road 48. It welcomes residents and visitors as they enter from the east.



After the Trailside Bike Shop had a mural painted on their wall facing the Withlacoochee State Trail in 2006, the Floral City Garden Club moved their Birds and Butterfly Garden to the area in front of that mural.

Special to the Chronicle

The "Withlacoochee Trailside Garden," as its name indicates, is located on the Withlacoochee State Trail (south side of Orange Avenue and is across from the Gazebo and "Travelers and Their Trails" kiosk). This garden began as a small Birds and Butterfly Garden in 2001 on the east side of the trail. After Hampton's Trailside Bike Shop created a mural on their wall facing the trail, the club moved the garden in 2006 to the area and added roses. That year, the club received recognition from the Keep Citrus County Beautiful

organization for the garden. The Trailside Garden continues to be maintained as a wildflower garden.

The club is planning to hold its first meeting in the fall at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 11, in the Floral City Community House in the Town Center. Social Distancing will apply. Call First Vice President Carol Wood for additional information at 813-235-3917 and visit www.floralcitygardenclub.weebly.com.

Marcia Beasley submits publicity for the FCGC Floral City Garden Club. Visit www.floralcitygardenclub.weebly.com.