

The nice weather has finally arrived! If you are like most people, you've spent time recently mowing the grass, cleaning the flower beds and readying the outdoor furniture. How much land do you maintain in the summer? One acre? Two acres? Ten acres? How about keeping up with 120 acres?

The school district owns 120 acres that requires maintenance. In the budget cuts of 2011, we had to cut our outdoor staff in half to just one person. Imagine having all that acreage to mow and maintain. Our man, Jim Leube, works hard at it but sometimes the weather works against him. So we've had to cut back on what we can do with shrubs and flower beds around our buildings. Therefore, we are announcing our "adopt a garden" program.

We are asking families and organizations to adopt an area around one of our buildings and become the "maintenance crew" for that area. We'll get to the details of what that involves later but now, I'd like people to consider the benefits of getting involved. If you have children attending one of our schools, making this a family project will not only be good for the family, but will give your children a sense of pride and ownership in their school. It's a chance to teach community service as well as civic and school pride. As your child walks into the school each day, he or she will remember your family experience and have a sense of pride and belonging.

Perhaps you are part of a civic organization that does community service, or better yet, one of the many organizations that use our buildings throughout the year. This a great opportunity to give back.

Last summer, I adopted the area around the Education Center. I weeded it and planted giant zinnias from the seeds I collected in my yard from the previous year. I threw a little mulch from my pile in the back of my truck and gave the bed a nice finished look. This year, I've already transplanted some ornamental grass from my yard to add to the zinnia and sunflower seeds gathered last fall to be planted this year.

If you'd like to adopt one of the areas to maintain from the list below, you can commit to be involved at one of two levels:

Basic Level:

1. Between now and the end of the year, weed the area, trim shrubs if needed and sharpen the edge of the bed.
2. Check on the weeds every two to three weeks between now and mid July when they are most active.
3. Remove any dead plant material in the fall.

Intermediate Level:

1. In addition to the above, add any plant material you'd like to spruce up the bed. You'll need to do any maintenance required on the plants. If you're into gardening, you know you can divide plants from your own yard for this.
2. Provide mulch for the area.

The areas in need of "ownership" are listed below. If you'd like to adopt one, please call 273-1033, extension 5901 or you can email me at richardscaletta@generalmcclane.org. This project can be a great deal of fun and a source of community pride. Let's get growing!

High School Areas:

1. Planters in front of school
2. Southwest corner of building
3. Area around the new sign out front (shrubs are being removed)

Middle School

1. Gillette Memorial Garden in Front
2. Shrubs across front of school south of main lobby

Edinboro Elementary

1. Main entrance area

McKean Elementary

1. Front Entrance
2. Area south of main lobby windows
3. Well head garden by west parking lot



Zinnias and petunias in around the Education Center, Fall 2012.