

October 2024

Friends of the ROBBINS Town Gardens

*Many hands make
for fun and great
progress!*

FALL CLEAN-UP, NOVEMBER 2, 10:00 AM



Earth Day, April 20, Spring Clean-up.

We hope that you will join us before the winter. **Fall Clean-up Day on Saturday, November 2 -- rain date November 9 at 10:00am until 2:00pm.** It is a great way to meet and work along with others who appreciate our wonderful Garden. If you want to join us, please email us at frtg2018@gmail.com

IT HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR

On Earth Day, April 20, we organized a spring clean-up event to get the Garden ready for the coming year. Many volunteers from the Friends of the Robbins Town Gardens joined other Arlington citizens to plant groundcover, rake leaves, clean out the reflecting pool, and remove early weeds. Shattuck Hardware generously donated yard bags.

We saw many of you again at our annual Garden Party on June 17. We honored Patsy Kraemer for her work through the years to support the Civic Block and the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden designed by the Olmstead Brothers in 1939.



As in past years, the food was enjoyed, the music delightful, and the Garden was decorated for the event. And we were blessed with perfect weather for this occasion. We hope you will join us again next year as we celebrate our ongoing progress in restoring the Garden.

Left to the right: *Christine Harris, Robert Cunniff, **Patsy Kraemer**, JoAnn Robinson*

The summer heat kept our gardening to a minimum in July and August, but picked up this fall with planting, weeding, and pruning. We are grateful to our volunteers from the Friends and Garden Club, and Mona McKindley our Historic Gardener, for all their hard work.

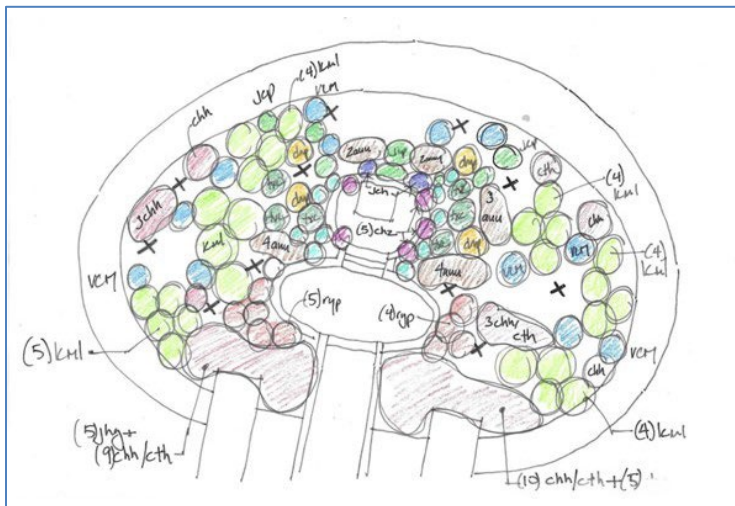
We hope you will continue to help us next year and bring your friends. We are also extremely grateful to Jane Howard, a founding board member of the Friends, who passed away in September. Jane's family asked that donations in her memory be given to the Friends. Jane worked tirelessly as a volunteer in many capacities to the town of Arlington, and we are honored that she chose the Friends for memorial donations.



In **November** we will have our annual **board meeting**. All members are invited to attend, and we'll send an email once a date is set. We will report out on what we have accomplished in the past year and will be electing new board members. If you are interested in serving on the board, please send us an email at frtg2018@gmail.com The board meeting is a great opportunity to meet the people behind the Garden restoration, ask questions and learn about our long-range plans and the Garden design. Hope to see you there!

PLANTINGS IN THE GARDEN

This fall and next spring and summer we will be implementing the work funded by our recent CPA grant – replacing many of the missing original shrubs on either side of the reflecting pool, removing the invasive barberry, and replanting portions of the beds that border the grassy oval and the brick pathway.



The detailed drawing of the grotto (see left) shows how lush and dense the planting will be. The woodland above the stone wall also has new trees and shrubs that will complete the setting for the Menotomy Indian Hunter as the Olmsted Brothers designed. These plantings are done and we installed a fence that will remain for at least two years so that the plants can send down their roots and grow. These new plantings made a

significant difference in appearance and feel of that area of the garden, and our recent CPA grant will provide the funds to continue with additional planting as we restore the garden.

Come by and see how things are evolving!