

Adding Life & Beauty

ADOPT

A PLOT

Through Gardening!

2024

Plot & Map Guide to College
Church properties



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16- March	1st meeting for participants	8:30 - 10:00 a.m. – meet in Commons Hall
6-Apr	Grounds Days - April 6 (Rain-date April 13)	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – meet in Commons Hall
11- May	Planting Day - All plant orders submitted to Henry Parker by May 4	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – meet in Commons Hall
June - Aug	1 Educational Day - middle of month on Wednesday	TBD
June - Aug	Every Wednesday - Henry Parker is available to help	Wednesdays in the afternoon on the premises
12-Jun	Special Sessions	6- 7 p.m. TBD
17-Jul	Special Sessions	6- 7 p.m. TBD
28-Aug	Special Sessions	6- 7 p.m. TBD
12-Oct	Grounds Days (Rain-date Nov. 2)	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. – meet in Commons Hall



The Adopt a Plot program is a gardening community living out the mission of serving Jesus Christ by tending to the exterior areas of the College Church properties. This program is designed to showcase God's incredible beauty and design found in His creation by gardening. The aim is to make the grounds inviting and beautiful to behold.

Henry Parker, our experience gardener leads this program and has over 35 years of experience in working with garden volunteers at DuPage Care Center in Wheaton. He has helped volunteers increase their love and skills for gardening while building community and engagement.

If you are interested in joining this program, novice or expert, there is training available and a schedule of activities for fellowship and learning opportunities. To Adopt an available plot, partner with a gardener, support the program financially, or find out more, contact Henry Parker <heinzparker@gmail.com>

May you experience the joy of God's creation by being part of the Adopt a Plot program and serving as a gardener here at College Church.

Advancing Christ's Kingdom One Task At a Time!

Howard Kern
Facilities Director
Hkern@college-church.org
Work: 630-668-0878
Fax: 630-668-0984

Plots 1, 2, & 3

N. Washington St.



FULL SUN

Spigot # 1

1



Plot 4 & 5

N. Washington St.



Don & Evelyn Bertini

INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Rake and clean up -
Note daffodil & tulip placement
so, you don't destroy when you
plant with annuals. (2 hours)

Stake peony bushes with grid so they don't collapse. (45
minutes)

Plant annuals (petunias,
marigolds, impatiens, stella dora lilies & daylilies)

Mulch 1/2 inch only.

Weed and water weekly or
bi-weekly as needed. Cut
back brown to yellow
spring bulbs. (1 hour)

Fall:

September - Cut back spent flowers and hostas - rake
debris - leave interesting dry plants- water (5 hours)

October - Continue weeding, watering.

November - Final leaf rake and plant bulbs and trim most
plants - put to bed for the winter.

SHADE GARDENS

Spigot # 1

1



Joseph Nuter

Plot 6

N. Washington St. & E. Seminary Ave.

INSTRUCTIONS PLOT 6 Bell Tower

Spring:

Rake and clean up - Note daffodil & tulip placement so, you don't destroy when you plant with annuals. (3 hours) Set hoses with multiple leads and return after 3 hours.

hostas, decorative fountain grasses, siberian sage, penny/pepper bushes. Possible annuals as desired. Note: Hostas are not visible yet.

Mulch 1/2 inch only.

Weed/water weekly or bi-weekly as needed. Cut back brown to yellow spring bulbs.

Fall:

September - Cut back spent flowers and hostas - rake debris - leave interesting dry plants- water 2 hours/per week.

October - Continue weeding, watering.

November - Final leaf rake and plant bulbs and trim most plants - Leaving tall grasses as desired. Put to bed for the winter



Henry Parker



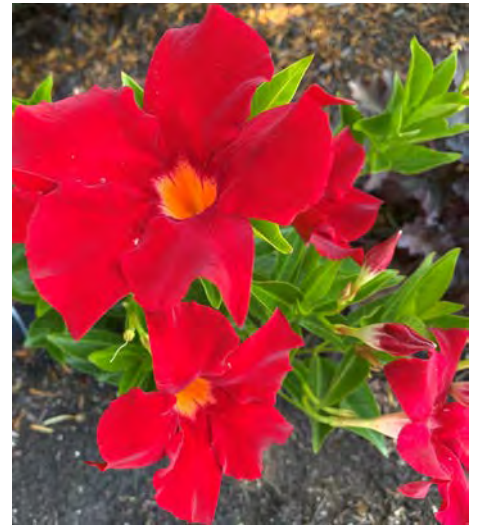
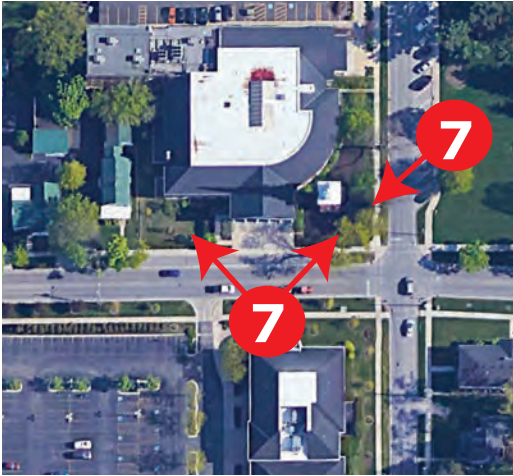
MIXED SUN

Spigot # 2

3

Plot 7

Front of Sanctuary and N. Washington St.



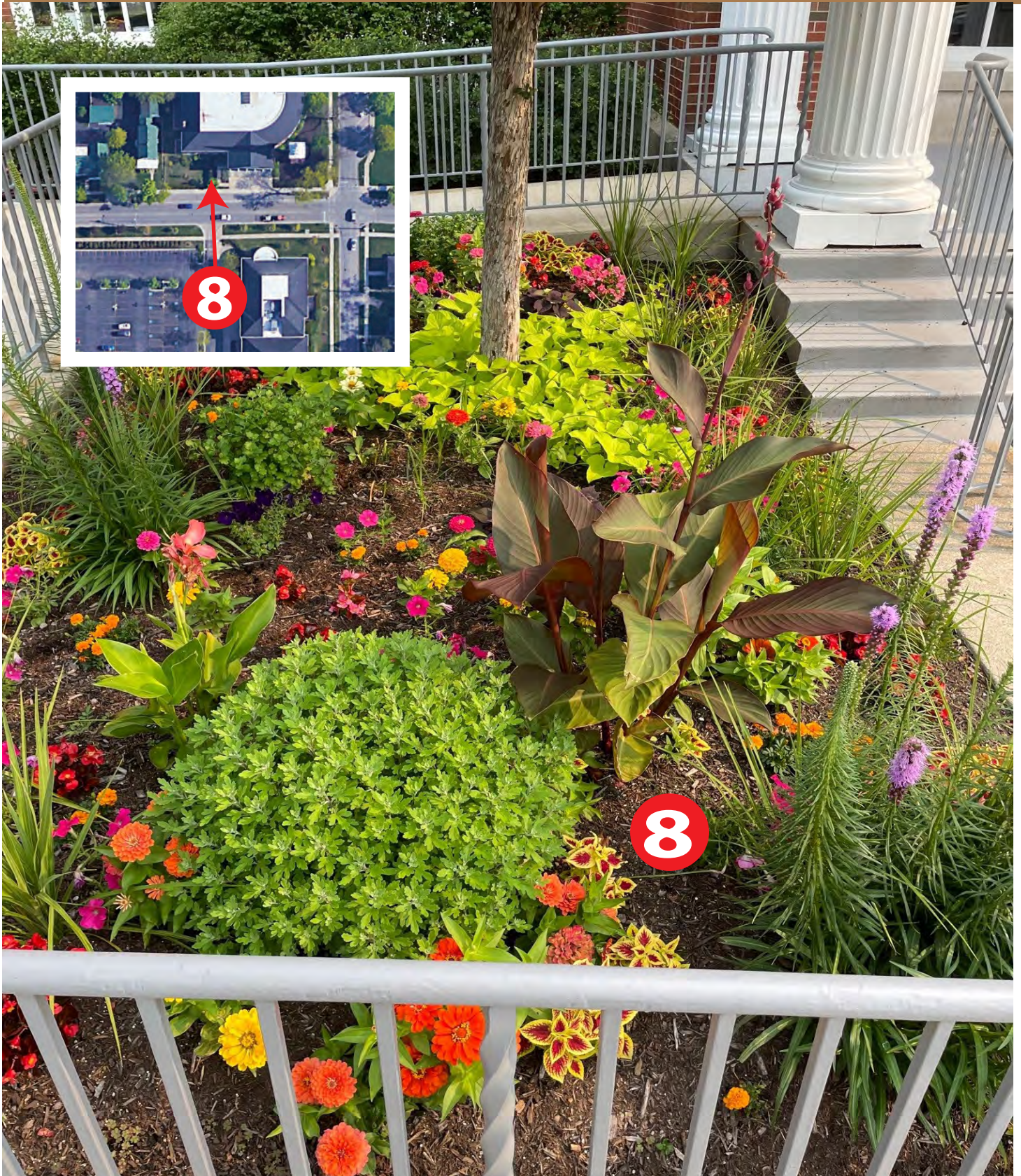
FULL SUN

Spigot # 3

3

Plot 8

Front of Sanctuary by the ramp



Plot 9

West of ramp



INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Rake and clean up -
Note: daffodil & tulip placement

Late Spring/Summer:

Trim spent flowers - peony blossoms (30 minutes)

Weed and water monthly as needed.

Fall:

September - Cut back moldy grey peony bush and rake debris - leave one or two bushes for interest.
(2-4 hours)

October - Cut back to 4 -6 inches.
(4 hours)

November - Final leaf rake and plant bulbs if desired and trim most plants - put to bed for the winter.
(3 hours)



FULL SUN

Spigot # 3

3



Plot 10

Six Kinnaman Properties - future parking



Six Kinnaman properties will become parking lots. Maintain and assist tenants with watering and weeding. (2-4 hours)

INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Rake debris - weed and water.

Plant annuals if desired and discuss with director, Henry Parker.

Fall:

Trim spent flowers, rake, weed, mulch as needed and put to bed for winter. (2 hours)

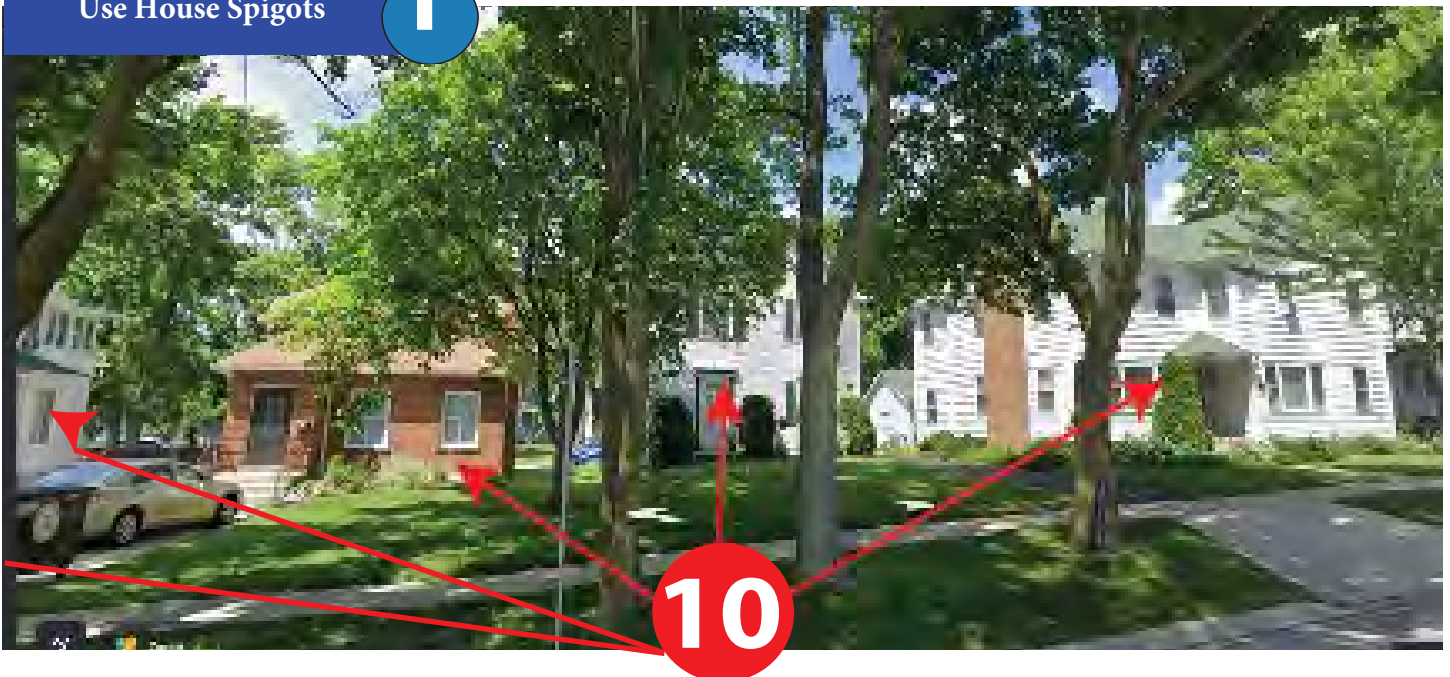
Plot #14 (301 Scott Street & 319, 323, & 325 E. Seminary)

301 & 315 are under tenant care.

MIXED SUN

Use House Spigots

1



Plot 11

E. Seminary Commons parking lot



FULL SUN

Spigots # 17

11

Plot 12

E. Seminary Ave. entrances to Commons



Mark Aloisio and Son (Whit)

INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Rake and clean up - Note daffodil & tulip placement so, you don't destroy when you plant with annuals. (2 hours)

Plant petunias around perennials:
allium pop-up, salvia, cone flowers, siberian iris

1/2 inch of mulch maximum!
(1-1/2 hours)

Weed and water as needed. Cut back brown to yellow spring bulbs and spent Silvia to promote second blooms. (1 hour)

Fall: Trim spent flowers, rake, weed, mulch as needed and put to bed for winter. (3 hours)



MIXED SUN

Spicket # 4



Plot 13

N. Washington & E. Seminary Ave. corner



FULL SUN

Spigot # 23



Plot 14

Commons entrance - front door plots



INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Rake and clean up (2 hours) -
Note daffodil & tulip placement

so, you don't destroy when you plant with annuals.

Plant annuals around allium salvia, trees, iris, bulbs, cone flowers.

(2 hours)

3 to 4 groupings per side

1/2 inch of mulch maximum!

Weed and Water as needed
(can set sprinklers with 4 sets)

Cut back brown to yellow spring bulbs and spent silvia to promote blooms.

(45 minutes)

Fall:

September - Trim spent flowers, rake, weed, plant kale cabbage, sweet potatoes, and mums as desired.

October - Continue weeding, watering.

November - Final leaf rake and plant bulbs and trim most plants - put to bed for the winter

Spigot # 4



AFTERNOON - FULL SUN



Plot 15

Seven terra-cotta pots on terrace ledge



FULL SUN

Spigot # 6

**20
Min**



Plot 16

Irregular parking island

FULL SUN

Spigot # 6

20
Min



Plot 17

N. Washington Ave. & E. Wesley St.



FULL SUN

Spicket # 5 



Plot 18

E. Wesley St. parking lot border



FULL SUN

Spicket # 5 or 6



INSTRUCTIONS

Spring:

Water, weed, and maintain sedum, cosmos, and spirea bushes. Soil is thin and poor and bushes will need water to survive.

Weed and Water Frequently
(2 hours)

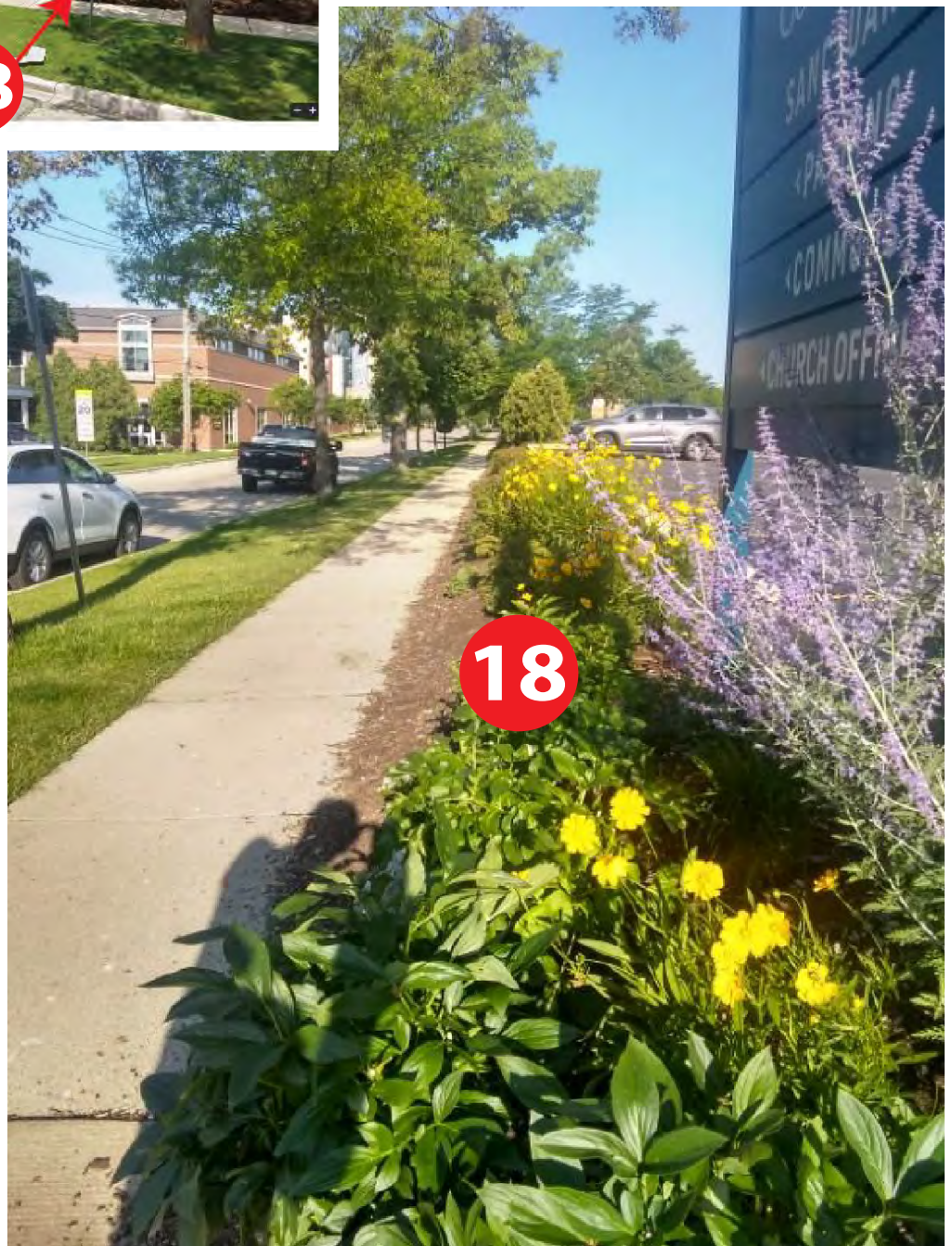
Fall:

September - Trim spent flowers

October - Continue weeding, watering
(2 hours)

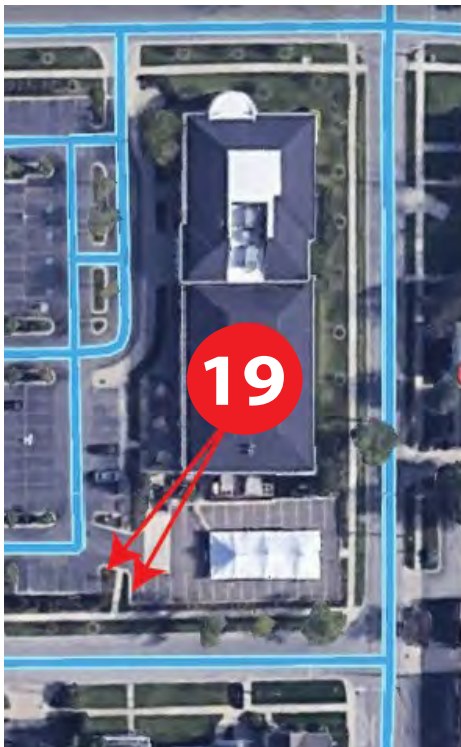
November - Trim plants back.

Julie Manders



Plot 19

E. Wesley St. parking lot entrance



MIXED SUN

Spicket # 6

Doug Portmann

Plot 20

Irregular parking island



Plot 21

Entrance to Commons from E. Wesley St.



Sandy Hofstra



MIXED SUN

Spigot # 7 or 13 **45 Min**



Plot 22

North Crossings parking lot entrance - A



Vikki Kowalski Williams & son Paul

MIXED SUN

Spigot # 7



Plot 23

North Crossings parking lot entrance - B



Annette Hightower

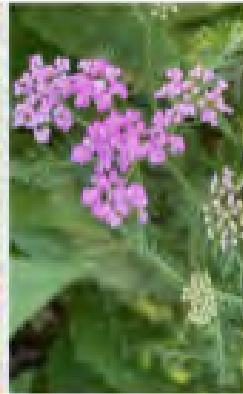
MIXED SUN

Spigot # 7



Plot 24

221 N. Scott St.



MIXED SUN

Spigots # 16



Plot 25

221 N. Scott St.



MIXED SUN

Spigots # 16



Plot 26

221 N Scott Street



MIXED SUN

Spigots # 14



Plot 27 & 28

221 N Scott Street & 308 E. Seminary Ave.



FULL SUN

Spigots # 14 & 17 



Seminary St.
Apartment
Garden

Plot & Garden Map

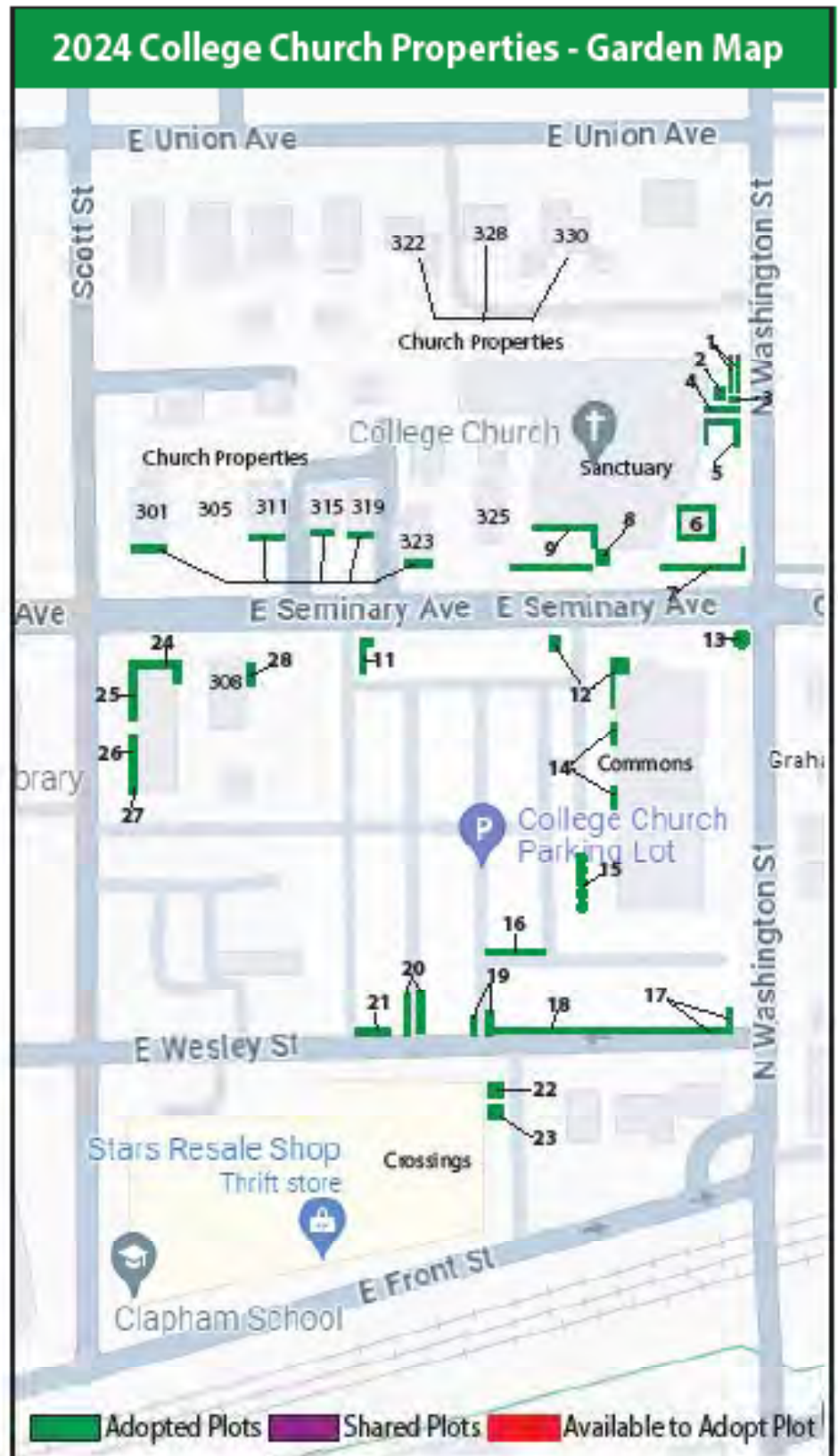
Plots & Gardens

To adopt a plot and become part of the gardening team, you need a servant's heart and a willing spirit. Training and tools are available. The requirement is to be available to serve throughout the season each week to weed, water, and tend to the area assigned as well as commit to the schedule for the program of service dates and fellowship gatherings. Not every date on the schedule is mandatory, however, the commitment to attend is desired. Our community not only serves the church by keeping the grounds beautiful, but encourages the team members to love one another and build community engagement.

For opportunities to adopt a plot or share a plot, please contact Henry Parker at heinzparker@gmail.com

Available plots to adopt are indicated in red. Shared plots are indicated in purple. Plots that are adopted are indicated in green.

For donations to expand the resources for this program and its future vision/plans, please reach out to Howard Kern, Facilities Director at College Church. hkern@college-church.org



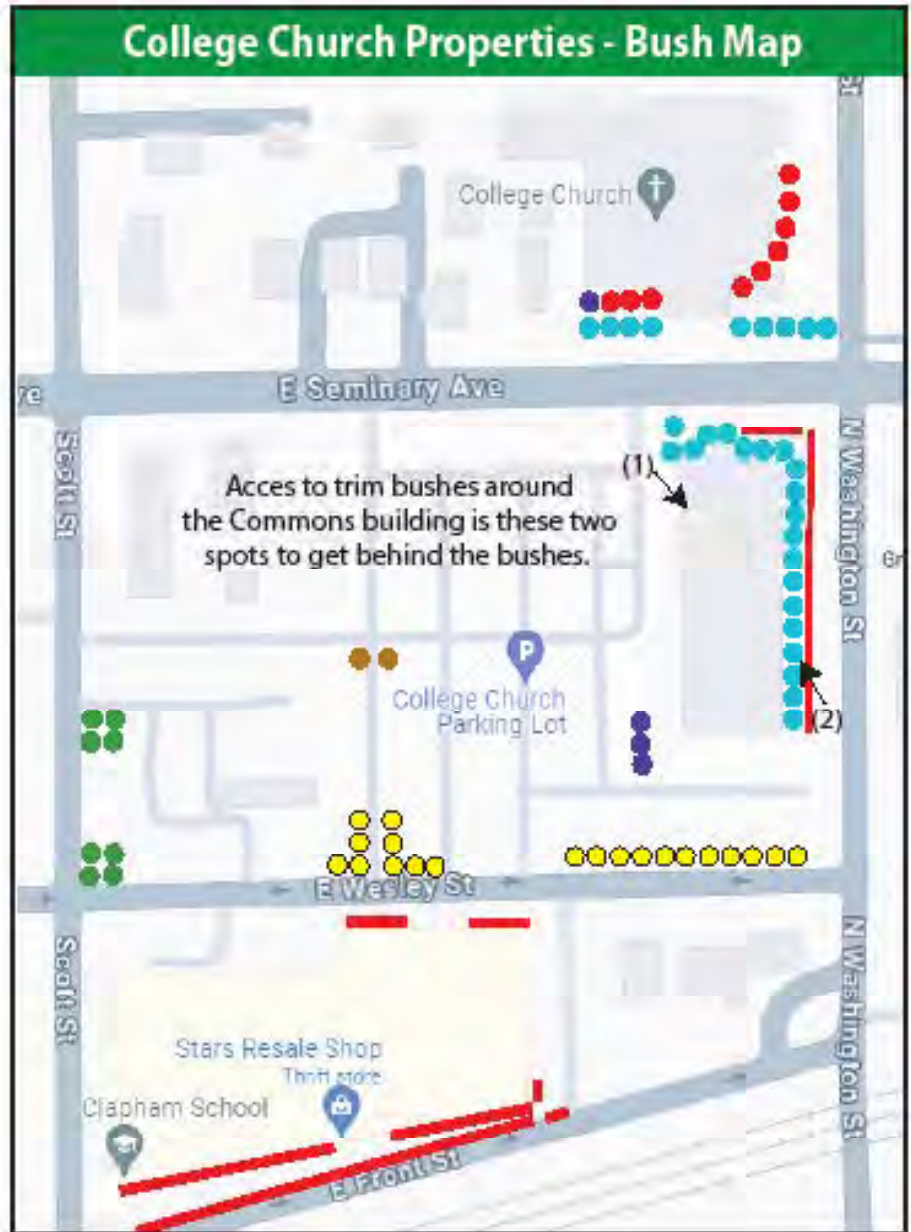
Bush Map

Bush Map

This is labor intensive
2-3 times a season.
Trim back and shape

Water during drought years

November - Blow Leaves - See
Charlie Kern



- Forsythia
- Chokeberry
- Lilac Bushes
- Hew Bushes
- Burning Bushes
- Spirea Bushes
- Euonymus Vine

Water, & Supplies

Supplies - Tools

A - 332 Garage (Uneven flooring)

- Brooms
- Clippers/Loppers
- Small hand tools

B - 308 Garage

- Bulbs
- Bone Meal
- Bags of Garden Soil
- Humus
- Fertilizer
- Winter Salt
- Lawn mower
- Clippers
- Electric Trimmers
- Electric Blowers
- Gasoline
- Etc.

C - 319 Garage

- Shovels
- Wheel Barrows
- Rakes- 3 types
- Shovels - 3 types
- Pitch forks
- Gloves
- Wheel Barrows
- Hoses
- 1000 feet commercial
- 800 feet soaker hoses
- 8 circular sprinklers

D - 323 Garage

- Snow Shovels

E - 308 Trailer

- Locked Equipment



Tree Map

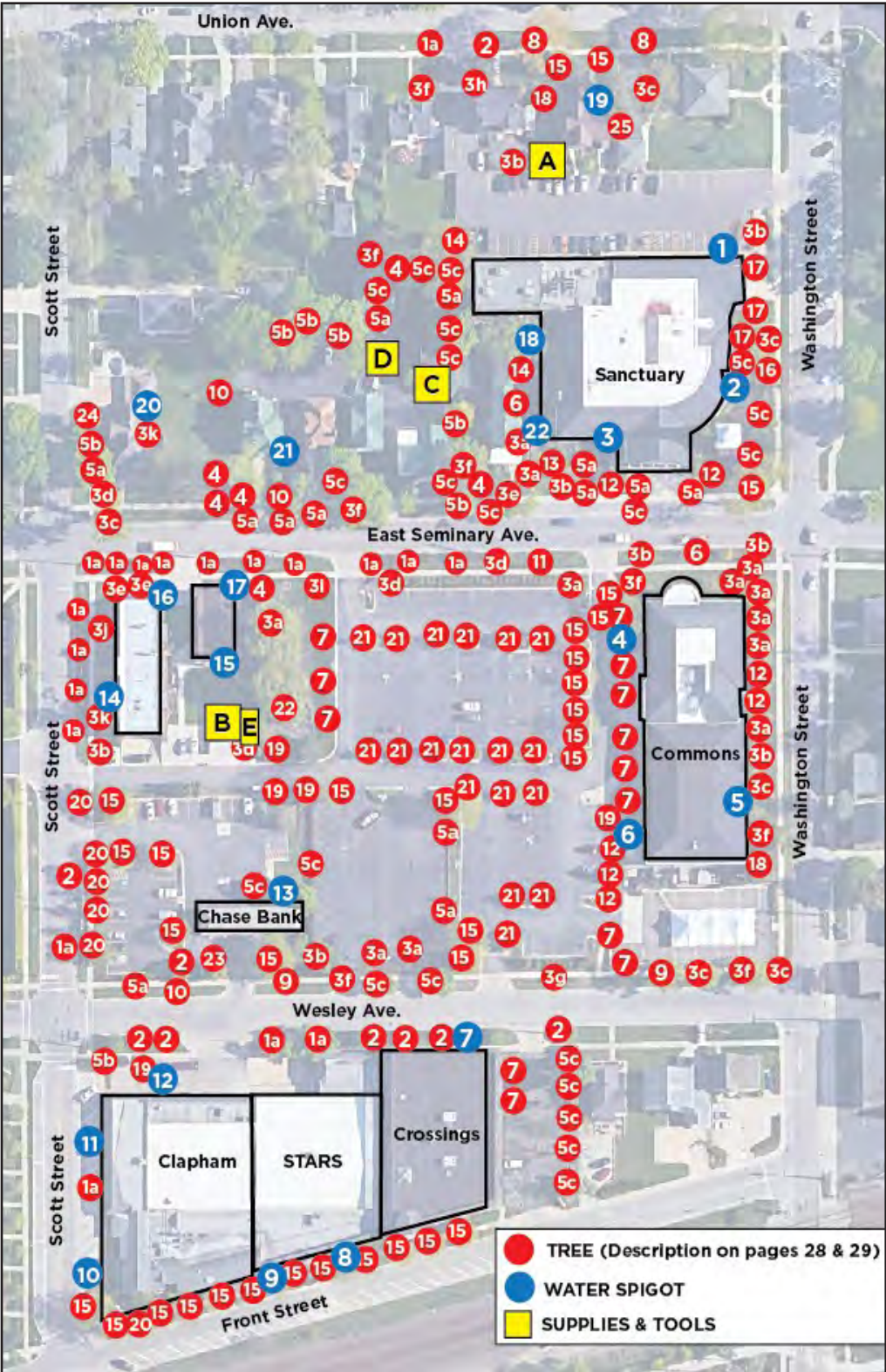
Includes all of College Church properties

Kent Jensen has taken care of the trees on the property.

Throughout the year: weed and maintain mulch levels around trees as described below. Keep dirt and mulch from covering the flare, where the trunk connects to the root system. Water the needy trees as appropriate (deeply), and edge the beds with pavers when none are yet installed.

IMPORTANT TREE NOTES:
1) Trees need regular pruning by an expert who is skilled in this practice otherwise the tree can be damaged.

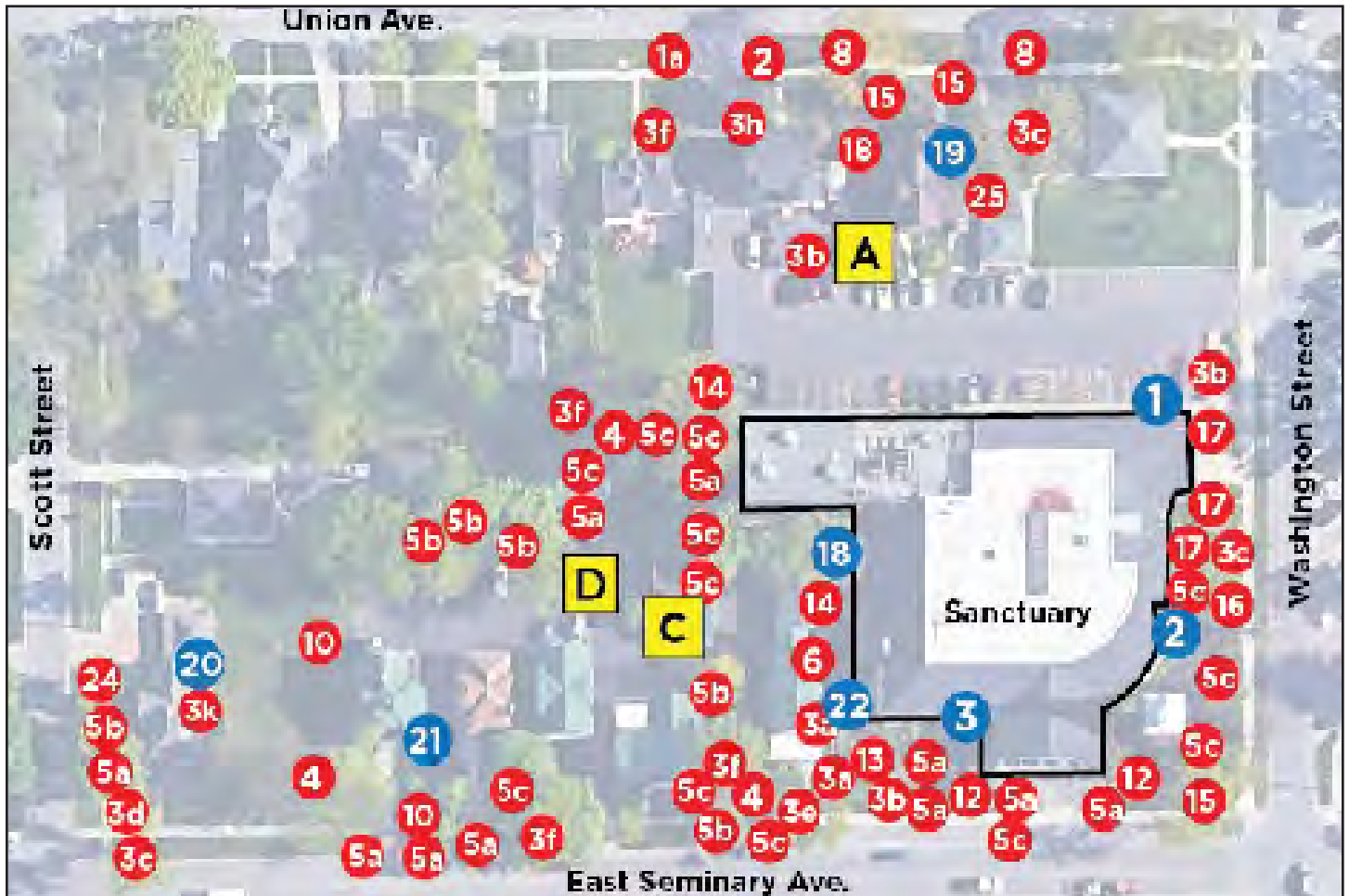
2) **Mulch** - Nearly all trees develop a 'flare' at the base when they are more than a few years old, where the trunk meets the root system. It is important that the flare remains exposed rather than covered with either mulch or dirt. When the trunk is covered for any length of time, it will often try to develop unhealthy roots in the covered area. 'Mulch volcanos' are an extreme example of a destructive practice that is sometimes used by professional landscapers.



Tree Map Properties, Help Key and Helpful Information see next pages.

Tree Map

Sanctuary

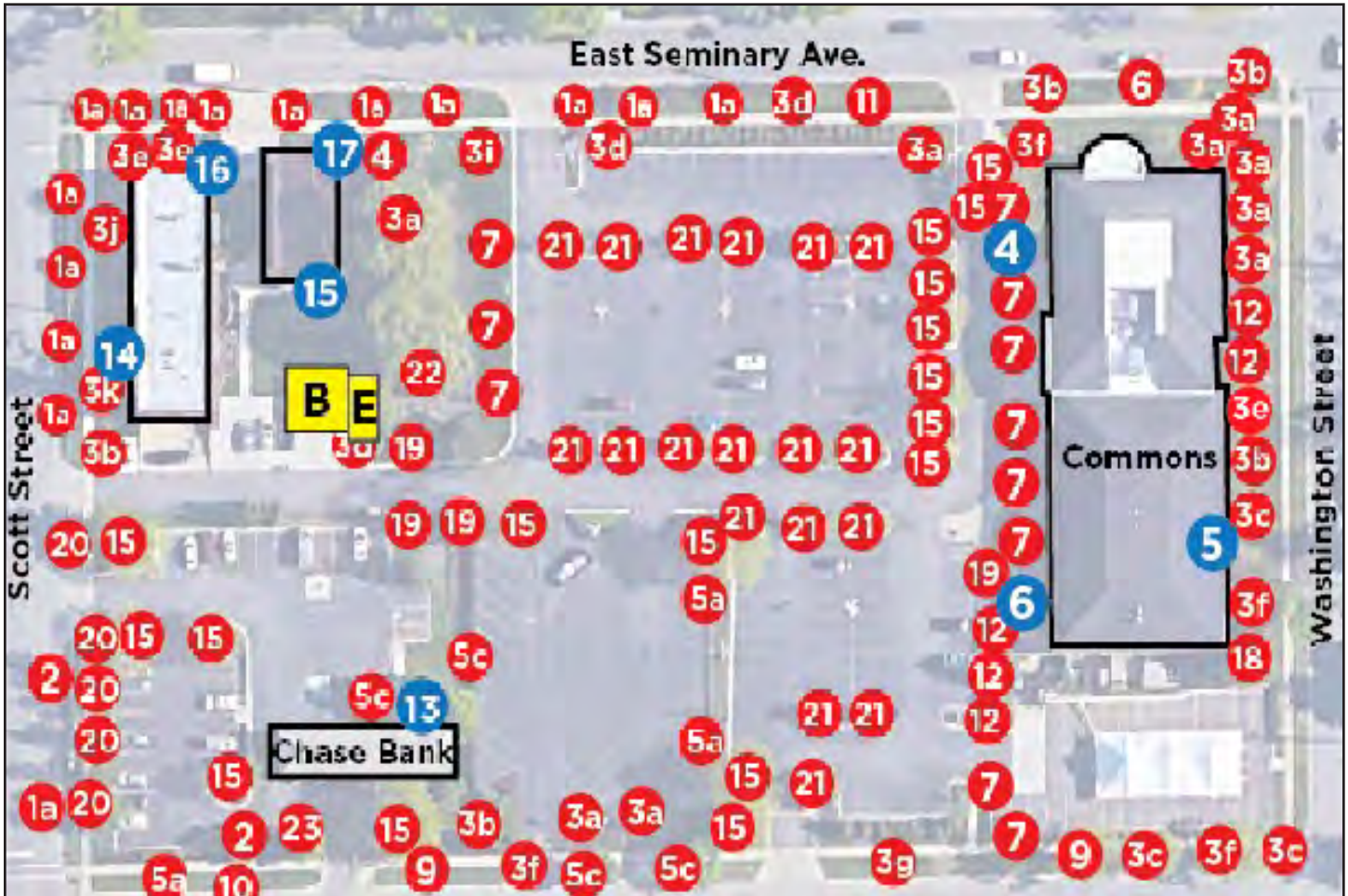


Help Key:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Apple (malus) | f. | Red (rubra) |
| a. | Crabapple | g. | English columnar (robur fastigiata) |
| b. | Apple | h. | Shumard (Shumardii) |
| 2. | Serviceberry (amelanchiar) | i. | Scarlett (coccinea) |
| 3. | Oak (Quercus) | j. | Hill's (ellipsoidalis) |
| a. | Chinkapin (muelenbergii) | k. | Black (velutina) |
| b. | Burr (macrocarpa) | 4. | Shagbark Hickory (caryaovata) |
| c. | White (alba) | 5. | Maple (acer) |
| d. | Swamp White (bicolor) | a. | Sugar (saccharum) |
| e. | Shingle (imbricaria) | b. | Silver (saccharinum) |
| | | c. | Norway (platanoides) |

Tree Map

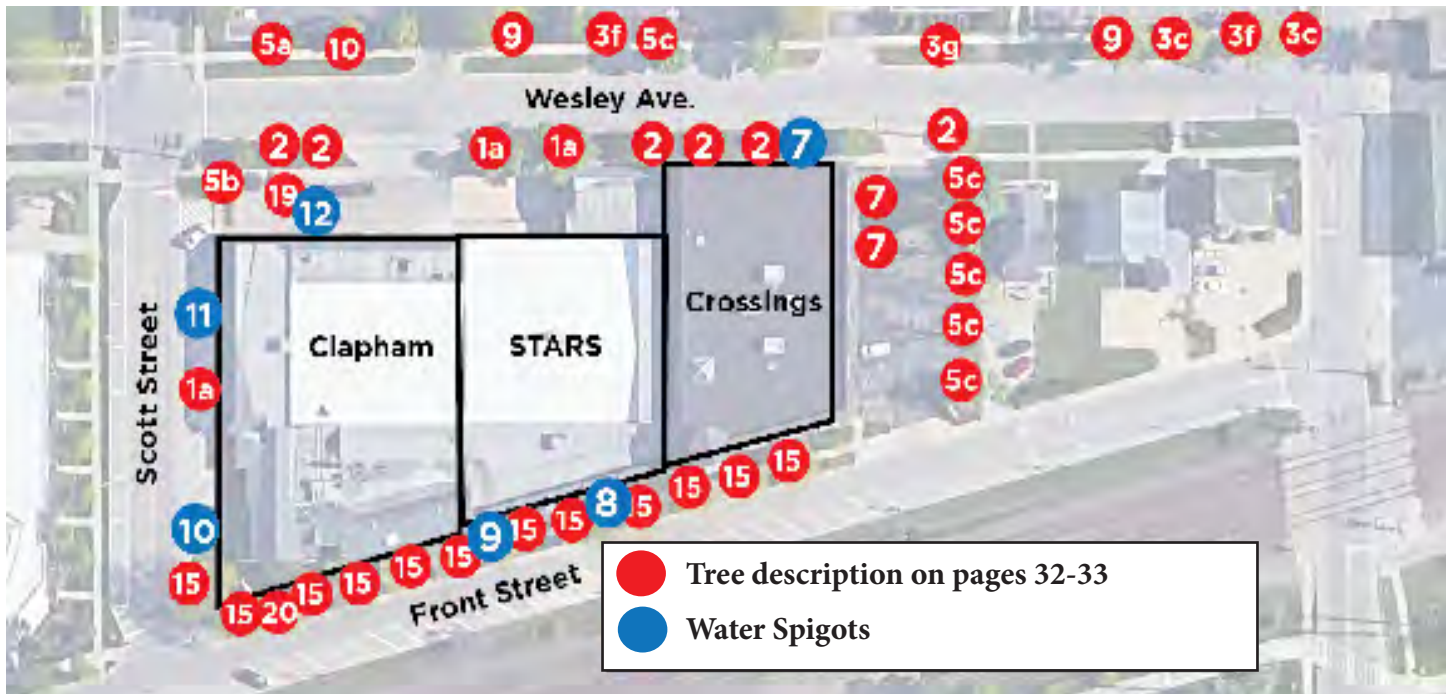
Commons



- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 6. | Tulip Tree (<i>liriodendron tulipifera</i>) | 16. | Black walnut (<i>juglans nigra</i>) |
| 7. | London planetree (<i>platanus acerifolia</i>) | 17. | Redbud (<i>cercis canadensis</i>) |
| 8. | Sweetgum (<i>liquidamber styractifula</i>) | 18. | Austrian pine (<i>pinus nigra</i>) |
| 9. | Catalpa (<i>catalpa speciosa</i>) | 19. | Blue spruce (<i>picea pungens</i>) |
| 10. | Kentucky coffee tree (<i>gymnocladus dioicus</i>) | 20. | Bradford pear (<i>pyrus calleryana 'bradford'</i>) |
| 11. | Ginkgo (<i>gingko biloba</i>) | 21. | Ohio Blackeye (<i>Aesculus glabra</i>) |
| 12. | Cockspur hawthorn (<i>crataegus crus-galli</i>) | 22. | Weeping willow (<i>Salix</i>) |
| 13. | Washington hawthorn (<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>) | 23. | Linden (<i>tilia cordata</i>) |
| 14. | American elm (<i>ulmus americana</i>) | 24. | Cherry Tree |
| 15. | Honey locust (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>) | 25. | Magnolia Tree |

Tree Map

Crossings



Working with trees in flower beds

March 4, 2023

Most trees are happiest in an environment where their roots have little competition from other plants. In an urban/suburban environment, it is generally not possible to give them all of what they want, but we try to avoid harming them when we can. Grass provides a special challenge as it is an aggressive feeder, dwarfed & crowded by design. Some background & suggested guidelines for cultivating around trees:

1. When we plant new trees, we dig a generous hole 7 feet in diameter, removing the grass and heavy clay & stones. We improve the soil through addition of organic material as needed (up to 40%, which is higher than some guidelines recommend), being careful to maintain a saucer shape to the hole (rather than a teacup) and ensuring the sides are rough not smooth. Both measures are meant to reduce the risk of the tree becoming 'pot-bound' in the hole over time due to the texture differences between the improved soil & the surrounding soil.

2. We surround the hole with pavers to separate the disturbed soil from the grass, making it easier to mow, protecting the trunk from equipment damage, slowing escape of any mulch into the grass, and impeding encroachment from the grass into the area.
3. Tree feeding roots are generally concentrated in the top layer of soil to get ready access to water, nutrients, and oxygen. These roots require an environment where there are open areas in the soil for these key ingredients to move and rest. At some point clays become too dense to accommodate feeding root activity. We have dug up trees in parking lot island beds and found no roots growing into heavy clay just a few feet from the trunk even after 20 years.
4. The best treatment for the area around trees is to mulch the area with coarse wood chips, that avoid matting, decompose more slowly, and allow

infiltration of water & air. Mulch moderates changes in soil temperature, discourages weeds, reduces water needs, and presents a peaceful appearance. Fill to a maximum of 3" deep, tapering the depth down as the mulch approaches either the outward edge or the trunk of the tree. Gentle ground covers also provide a nice solution.

5. Nearly all trees develop a 'flare' at the base when they are more than a few years old, where the trunk meets the root system. It is important that the flare remains exposed rather than covered with either mulch or dirt. When the trunk is covered for any length of time, it will often try to develop unhealthy roots in the covered area. 'Mulch volcanos' are an extreme example of a destructive practice that is sometimes used by professional landscapers.

6. If you must plant flowers/bulbs near trees in beds, please keep at least 2' from the trunk & avoid cutting into roots if you can. Shallower plantings would be better. Deep bulbs like daffodils and tulips provide more of a challenge as they must be renewed/split every few years and so repeat the mechanical damage.

7. We try to plant trees tolerant of area soils, but find that there are still some that develop chlorosis, often (though not always) due to alkaline soil. Please check in before adding lime (or equivalent) to any soil near the trees.

8. Most of our trees don't require watering, even in the heat of August, but some do, particularly younger ones & some of the trees in restricted areas.

General rule on watering trees is to do it perhaps once a week, but do it thoroughly, so the soil is moistened all the way into the root zone.

Gator bags are helpful for younger trees. When trees run out of ground water, you can often see a shift in appearance of the tree's leaves; they get a bit peaked looking & droop. If this persists, the leaves will turn yellow & perhaps drop & roots will die as the tree tries to balance itself. Naturally this will happen sooner if other plants in their root zone are also taking up water.

9. Pruning is a larger subject than can be addressed here. Generally, we are pruning our shade trees to have a single central leader with the intent that they develop high crowns, not permanently branching until perhaps 25 or 30 feet off the ground. We retain laterals lower on the trunk in younger trees for longer than some rules of thumb indicate to help develop caliper in the main trunk and enhance food production but head them back to keep the branch leaf count smaller to minimize the size of the wound when they are eventually removed. We raise the crowns in smaller flowering trees (e.g., crabs) higher than we might in other landscapes to get them out of people's faces in the more crowded streetscape.

Time Estimates for maintaining and caring for the trees on the property.

1. Hours per year – rough estimate, changes year to year

a. Dealing with pests – 15 - 25 hours per year. Mostly associated with spraying fungicides several times on crabs & hawthorns; also less on London planetrees. Other assorted issues from time to time.

b. Planting new trees, replacements, with help from staff & volunteers. Each year is roughly 30 hours; maybe 2-3 times that when including others. Takes about 4 hours per tree, the way we do it, not counting procurement.

c. Pruning – 100 hours a year very roughly.

d. Other issues, mainly problems with trees from a variety of other causes, but mainly soil. 10 - 20 hours a year.

e. To do the spraying, the individual would need a pesticide applicator license from the state, in both general standards & ornamentals.

This booklet has been prepared for any future gardener and caregiver of College Church properties. It is our hope and intention that you grow as a gardener and flourish just as your flower beds will express the lavishness of God's love towards you and all who pass by.

We trust that the bright daffodils and peonies will encourage the distraught depressed mother as she drives past your beds. That the well-kept grounds will give hope to the idea that they might find the same peace inside our buildings. And come inside to discover the gospel. Or that the chaos of the cosmos and Hosta gardens will tell the students that God understands their chaos and invites them inside.

Patience, flexibility, and a little persistence are all you need to begin with. Do not demand perfection or maturity from your beds. Simply begin. The beauty at the front of the church "crazy quilt" did not become the well-admired beauty that it is overnight. Its numerous plants grow and thrive because of the planning and the daily watering. You have heard the saying about a "well-watered English garden..." Well, it is because most English gardens do receive a daily shower from above! Watering is paramount. So, when in doubt, water and observe. Most of your problems and questions will be answered.

We have made general notations for each bed and arranged them in convenient groupings for ease of care and continuity of design around campus.

We invite you to dream and be bold.

Welcome to the joy of gardening!

