

## Garden Scoop Newsletter – April 2024

In previous articles, the Garden Scoop Newsletter has highlighted many of the activities and accomplishments of the Arlington Garden Club over the past 90 years. The club has offered many social opportunities to members and championed civic pride in homes, gardens and public spaces. The Arlington Garden Club efforts have enriched the lives of its members and quite literally changed the landscape of the community!

Early 1890's photos (right) show what an eyesore greeted visitors to the City of Arlington. Vacant land was full of tree stumps and brambles. Over the years, stumps were slowly removed but the weedy lots remained. Beautification efforts were an early focus of the club. Here is a recap of some of these efforts.

In 1934, the club purchased unkempt land near the railroad tracks at the south entrance to the city which became known as the Arlington Garden Club "Plot." The club dedicated this to the city in 1939. However, the club continued its fundraising efforts to raise money to care for this plot of land, paid for a caretaker, donated trees/shrubs, and later helped to install an upgraded irrigation system in the 1950's. In 1962 the club notified the City that they would no longer undertake the responsibility of maintaining Lebanon Park.



*This photo, found in club records dated to 1936, is believed to show a work party of club members at the "Lebanon Plot."*

was another campaign to plant trees in parking strips. The Camp Fire Girls planted 50 trees with the majority of funds donated by the garden club. The club has donated, and arranged for planting, various trees and shrubs in city parks over the years often in memory of past club members.



*Photos (above and below) are courtesy of the Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum.*



In the 1930's, the club put together a design plan for Terrace Park and organized work parties for some of the early plantings of perennials and shrubs. They also raised money for an irrigation system. In 1948 the City was considering selling the park. The garden club organized a protest that opposed the sale of the park.

The Club started a project to plant trees in parking strips in the 1940's. The club made recommendations about preferable trees and in many cases the club purchased the trees and arranged for plantings. In the fall of 1960 there

In a final recap of some of these early efforts, the garden club partnered with the Arlington Commercial Club in the 1940's and sponsored contests encouraging home gardens. Cash prizes were offered. In 1942, as part of these community wide beautification efforts, James Miller of Bryant donated a large number of gladiola bulbs that were distributed and planted in honor of his son, the first in the community to give his life to the country during the war.

*I wish to express a very sincere thank you to Michele Heiderer, Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum, for her assistance with researching newspaper archives and museum photos. She has a true skill with historical research and lovingly cares for and helps preserve the museum's historical documents.*