

## **Improvements to the Hart County Botanical Garden 2019, 2020**

### **Garden-wide**

- Irrigation system installed in 6 gardens –funded by a grant from the ?? foundation (you wrote this wonderful grant, Kristin); March 2020
  - Phase 2 – irrigation system, final 2 gardens – work scheduled to begin March 2021
- Extensive planting in all gardens – plants from Covid-cancelled annual plant sale; April 2020
  - \$2800 pre-paid for plants
- Settlers Fence installed – Pocket Prairie, Children’s Garden, Asian Garden; spring, summer 2020
- 10 blue bird boxes – donated by local Boy Scout Troop; July 2020
- 2 nationally registered geocache sites – donated by a local geocache group; spring 2019
- 5 security cameras – monitored weekly; fall 2020
- Dog doo disposal station – near front entrance; spring 2020
- 4 burn pits – for disposal of limbs, brush, cleared foliage; eliminates transporting as trash; spring 2019
- Pergolas, path steps, berm barriers, benches, pavilion outer walls – stained during 2 Purina employee work days; spring 2019

### **Spirit Garden Created**

- 16 native azaleas planted with a sign stating the Spirit Garden is “dedicated to Hart County’s Front Line Heroes and the intrepid community that supports them, Pandemic Year 2020” – April 2020

### **Children’s Garden**

- An internationally registered Little Free Library – donated by a local Cub Scout pack; summer 2019
- Cement picnic table, path to the library, cement butterfly pavers added to library area
- 4 picnic tables (2 for kids, 2 for adults) – funds to purchase kits for 3 tables donated by Hartwell Rotary Club; summer 2020
- Large covered trashcan installed nearby
- Decorative painted fence pickets – donated by Hartwell Service League, spring 2021

### **Piedmont Pocket Prairie Created**

- Planting of a rare, endangered ecosystem consisting of 60% grasses, 40% flowers – all GA natives – takes 5 years of consecutive planting additions to mature
  - 286 grass plugs – October 2019

### **Pavilion**

- Kitchen and bathroom repainted – walls, ceiling, floors; fall 2020
- 3 black metal tables, 10 chairs, recycling bin – purchased for outdoor seating area; spring 2021
- 6 bistro tables – purchased additions to rentable event tables, chairs; spring 2020

### **Sun Perennial Garden**

- 2 bee boxes added – 1 donated by Hartwell Service League; spring 2021

### **New Swale Wetland Garden planned**

- Vegetation, trees, shrubs cut and cleared; area cleaned; winter 2020

### **Fern Garden**

- Memorial bench installed – Mimi Payne, a garden founder

### **Community Outreach and Education**

- 2 new board positions created – Education Director, Communications Coordinator; Jan. 2020
- New, more complete, informative, user friendly website developed – winter 2020
- Quarterly newsletter – on website, emailed to Friends of the Garden; spring 2020
- New garden information and membership brochure – Jan. 2021
- Large garden map placed in new county kiosk at the Rec Fields – spring 2019
- Annual field trip to the garden – Hart County 3<sup>rd</sup> graders – 6 learning stations set up throughout the garden –early May yearly, except 2020
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tree Sale – trees, information and planting directions sold; fall 2020
- 1<sup>st</sup> Fairy, Gnomes & Superheroes party – for children ages 5-12, in the garden; spring 2019
- Annual Plant Sale – large and quite popular – annually in early April, except 2020

### **Community Involvement**

- Events Committee formed to host community events and garden fundraisers – Jan. 2020
- Hartwell DDA Scarecrow event – annual participation; display won 1<sup>st</sup> place – Oct. 2020