

HISTORY OF TRIANGLE GARDEN

CRYSTAL LAKE, IL

Since the 1970's an area of public land created by a downtown road construction has been called the "Triangle Garden". Located on North Walkup Avenue it is in the heart of downtown Crystal Lake. Three separate areas make up the garden.

Over the years Countryside Garden Club has planted and maintained this garden. In 2009 a garden of approximately thirty six Asiatic lily clumps were planted in McCormick Park in Crystal Lake in memory of Mary Walker an long time and well known GCI member with a donation from her family. In 2011 these lily plants had to be relocated to the Triangle Garden again due to road construction. Also the large ash trees surrounding the garden were dying due to ash borer.

The garden club members knew the garden was changing from mostly a shade garden to a mostly sunny garden due to tree loss. Plans to restore and improve the garden were held in 2012 due to the widespread drought.

In 2013 a committee was formed to revamp the three garden areas the theme being "sun loving flowers" including roses, annuals and natives. The committee used suggestions from the local wild flower preservation group and the pamphlet "Monarch Waystations" (enclosed) to design the gardens. The members planted coneflowers, rudbeckia, monarda, milkweed, phlox, liatris, roses and many annuals. Invasive and over grown plants were thinned or removed such as asters, ageratum, and campanula. The reworking of the garden is a three year plan. For the first time the city was petitioned for a donation and the city complied with \$325.00 given to help with the project.

With ample rain this spring the new plantings have thrived. Older plantings were revitalized with the removal of the invasive plants. Members are scheduled weekly to water and weed the areas. The public seems to always comment to the members as they weed on the beauty the garden brings to the busy corner. Bees, butterflies, birds and a resident bunny enjoy the garden, also. Next year more plants will be added to achieve our goal of "Monarch Waystation"

