



NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

Neighborhood Environmental Project Case Study Form

Neighborhood/Community Name Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club

Project Coordinators: MLG&CC & ML Garden Club

Project Contacts: MLG&CC: Nancy Miller
Maple Leaf Garden Club: Norm Harrison

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PROJECT INFORMATION: *Track 1. Wildlife -Floral Renewal of CAN-AM Parkettes*

Please provide an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?

Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club (MLG&CC) is a senior community of over 2200 people on 275 acres of property in Port Charlotte Florida. In cooperation with the Corporation, the Garden Club supports and contributes funding for the maintenance and upkeep of over 65 floral gardens (Parkettes) and 8 green space areas. The 0.75-acre green space area behind the Canada-American building (CAN-AM) contain 0.25-acres of flowers and trees in seven parkettes. Each parkette is enclosed with a concrete ribbon. These parkettes are almost 30 years old and the plant and soil materials are past their useful life cycle. The parkettes are close to a main water body and provide important habitat for ducks, birds rabbits, snakes and other small mammals. In addition, MLG&CC is a Project Pollinator member and many Parkette flowers are appropriate for bees and butterflies. The green space area is adjacent to a large covered deck over the water and is a very popular area for many park activities.

The Parkettes will have the present plant material removed and replaced with new Florida friendly plants that accommodate new ground cover habitat and nectar for bees and butterflies.

Please list your goals for this project:

- Improve the appearance and appeal of the floral gardens for residents
- Provide habitat for nesting ducks and birds.
- Provide floral plants suitable for bees and butterflies
- Renew the Parkette soil and nutrient levels.

What specific steps did you take to implement your project? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require? (Please give sufficient detail so that someone interested in duplicating this project could do so.)

- Prepare a floral design and plant list
- Submit the design and projected budget to Corporation for approval and funding
- Petition Garden Club members for financial support
- Purchase plants.
- Remove mulch, soil, curbing and old plantings.
- Replace soil, curbing, plants, curbing and re-mulch.

Describe the results you achieved. What were the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results (i.e., numbers of acres naturalized, new species observed, or number of fledglings).

Parkette plants, soil and nutrients will be renewed providing another twenty years of habitat. The area will be more attractive and pleasing for residents and guests, which is important as the area has significant impact on potential new home owners. The Parkettes should require less maintenance and reduce Corporate labor requirements.

How did people respond to the project? How did you communicate your actions and results?

Project was well received by Garden Club members who voted financial support. NRC members were supportive as it meets published environmental goals. Residents have voiced favorable comments as the area is pleasant to relax in. The Project was communicated to residents at monthly homeowner meetings, in Accent the local newsletter, on the Corporate website and at Garden club meetings.

**What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?
What would you recommend to others implementing this project?**

The project was well thought out and planned. We did not encounter anything that would have been done differently. This project was accomplished with labor provided by Park staff. Other clubs may wish to use volunteers to reduce costs.

How much did it cost to implement this project?

The Garden Club provided \$2000 for plant materials. The estimated labor cost (150 hours) was \$2800.

What are your anticipated or actual financial savings?

There were no projected or anticipated financial savings.