

SSMGA PROJECT

Iosco County Medical Care Facility

2005

Spring: (3 workdays with about 6 volunteers each)

- **Removed soil from wheel chair-height flower boxes**
- **Mixed (in an ice-fishing sled) original soil with peat moss, sterilized cow manure, and time-release fertilizer**
- **Filled the flower boxes with enhanced soil**
- **Weeded and cleaned out dead leaves of the day lilies by the fountain and behind the building around the flower boxes**
- **Pruned and dead-headed plants in the circle and around the building**
- **Planted daylilies by the facility's road sign (a couple of days before it was hit)**
- **Planted flowering plants –mostly annuals that live one season:**
 - **Marigolds in the two boxes behind the building**
 - **Mixtures of dwarf dahlias, marigolds, geraniums, petunias, and salvias in the 3 patio flower boxes**
 - **Mostly dwarf dahlias and petunias with a few marigolds and salvias in the circle at the front of the building**

Summer: (1 workday with about 5 volunteers + individual MG stopped by to water and dead head)

- **Watered the plants**
- **Dead- headed (removed the seed formations) to fool the plants into continued blooming**
- **Weeded**

Fall: (5 workdays with about 7 volunteers each)

- **Watered the plants**
- **Dead-headed to make the plants look neater**
- **Generally cleaned out dead stuff – leaves, etc.**
- **Again cleaned out the day lilies and removed their seed stalks which were saved and used for Florence Heine's project at The Facility**
- **Lifted the dahlia tubers so that they can be re-planted next spring**
- **Pulled the dead plants which were killed by frost. These were annuals and their normal life cycle is one season**
- **Weeded the day lilies and around the shrubbery by the picnic tables and benches "outback" so they would look neater when there's no snow**
- **"Planted" prunings of evergreens and red berries in the 5 wheel chair – height flower boxes for beauty during the winter season.**
- **Pruned dead branches from evergreens (conifers) by the new addition to make them look better and to improve their health and "happiness".**

We had 9 workdays at The Facility with an average of 6 volunteers helping at each one. Gardening activities at The Facility were somewhat curtailed since the irrigation system was out of service until late summer due to building construction.

There are several **EDUCATIONAL** aspects of this project. (1) Because we were present, people stopped and asked us questions about what we were doing as well as other gardening questions. (2) We posted a less detailed version of this report on the staff bulletin board at the facility so that they could learn what we had done and why. (3) We saved the seed stalks from the day lilies which Florence Heine used for her separate project at the facility. She explained where the seed stalks came from and about their part in the life of the day lilies. (4) We learned a great deal from each other about gardening in general and gardening particulars for our work at The Facility. Each of us knew some things, of course, but a few of the volunteers have extensive gardening experience and knowledge which they shared for the education of the rest of us. (5) As we actually worked with our hands in incorporating the new knowledge from the “sages”, we were experiencing hands-on learning, which serves most people best.

THANKS to EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME and TALENTS !

