



# The Sprout

*A Little Like the Acorn - But Not Really*

*The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks*



*It's My Park Day - 2013*

On Saturday, July 13, roughly 15 club members and other volunteers participated in "It's My Park Day", the annual mid-summer work party organized by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Parks District. Club members renovated two flower beds, one in front of the Park District's headquarters and the other southwest of the Clubhouse along California Avenue in Village Park. The work ended at noon, after which we were all treated to burgers and hot dogs (expertly barbequed by the Lions) and live music.

We all got a lot of exercise, along with plenty of sun, fresh air, camaraderie and good hamburgers. If you missed this event, we hope to see you there next year.



**Anne Browning, project manager.**

Anne did a great job of getting everyone organized. She even served a continental breakfast out of the trunk of her car that was so good it made me regret eating breakfast at home.

The first flower bed, in front of the Park HQ building, was maybe 125 square feet of hard, dry soil densely matted with roots. Six or seven people spent about 90 minutes banging on the soil with shovels to loosen it up and clean out most of the old roots. Once that was done, they got rid of the excess soil, leveled the bed, put down a layer of garden cloth, planted some daylilies and covered it all with thick layer of shredded cedar bark. Then the chickens arrived.



This flower bed may have been small, but it was tough. This is what the crew spent a significant part of the morning doing. A couple of hard-working students (Molly Gilmore and Michael Vincent) showed up and helped out.



Former first hubby Jim Wilcoxon takes a break and comes over to inspect the progress.



The "root from hell" with Mike Maddox demonstrating the axmanship that extracted the root.



Planting daylilies

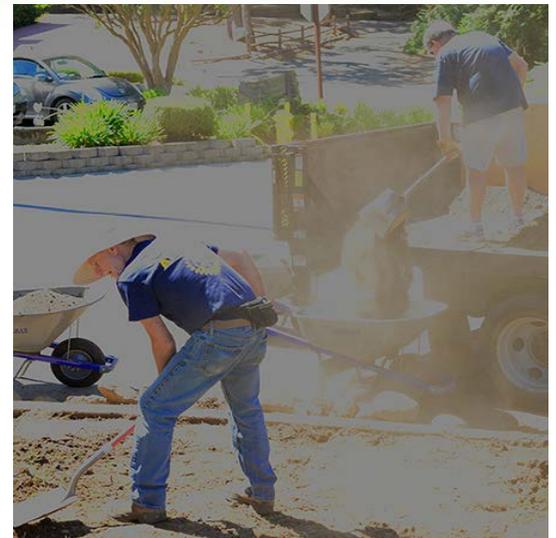


Helping Mike Maddox hose down the parking lot

**The rest of the It's My Park Day crew tackled the other flower bed. It wasn't really a flower bed – it was 300 – 400 square feet of clay, compacted and hardened by 20 years of foot traffic and infested with nut grass. Seven or eight really hard-working members spent the better part of the morning removing (with shovels) the top two or three inches of soil and nut grass. Then they smoothed it out and put down garden cloth. Final planting was left for the Park District because it was time for lunch.**



Beth and Pete removing the top layer of soil. The green plants in the bed are nut grass.



Jim Wilcoxon and Don Hicks dealing with the top soil.



Cliff manned the wheelbarrow



Putting down the garden cloth. The rocks Steve and Cliff are holding were used to temporarily hold the cloth in place.



Decided to skip the rock jokes.



The photographer could not get everyone working on this plot to take a break and pose for a photo, but some of them were agreeable – especially Jeanne.



This is most of the work party plus one unknown guy who was really happy to be in the group photo. The work party is over, but Mike's still playing with the hose.



What could be more appropriate for a project in Fair Oaks Village: A few minutes after work was completed, some chickens came over to scratch around in the shredded cedar bark. Remarkably, they were finding things to eat. Is there anything hungry chickens won't eat?