

MAIN STREET FOUNTAIN SUMMER REPORT 2024

Anna Caspersen, Robin Hammer, and I had the pleasure of planting and caring for the Main Street Fountain from the week after July 4th through September.

We met at Bartlett's Farm the week after the fourth to purchase our plant material. As in prior years we selected flowers and plants that could tolerate full sun and would provide "a visual punch" whether the fountain was viewed from a distance or up close.

Consistent with 2023 there was good availability of flowers of all types and Harriett in the garden center was a wonderful help.

This year, at Harriett's suggestion, we tried to do a mockup so we knew what plants would go where. In addition, we packed the flowers more tightly than we had in the past. This created a full and pleasing design with color from the top through the mid-level to the edge of the container. We "built up" the top level with extra potting soil and worked from there down to the edge of the fountain to ensure the heights were right. For the top layers we used a variety of taller "thrillers" that were as tall as the lower level of the fountain light, for the middle layers we used flowers and coleus which provide a strong visual punch of color and for the lowest level we use a variety of spillers – both greens as well as flowers.

We purchased A LOT OF PLANTS in order to tightly pack the fountain so it would grow full and lush. Anything we did not need could be returned but we used it all. We roughly used:

Base of Fountain

24 Sedum "Yellow Bouquet" (best plant we have used to date at the base – stood up very well all summer)

Main Fountain

Top Level:

Guara – used two tall perennial guara as the annuals were no longer available. Did well but prefer annual if can get it (Top Level)

Angelonia – two sizes – (excellent top and second level plants). Added more as summer progressed

One additional Tall Everblooming Plant (can't remember the name – it was dark purple!)

Mid Level:

SunPatiens "Compact Purple (did very well massing color)

Supertunia "Vista Bubblegum" (excellent flowering)

Coleus Main Street Chartres Street (did well)

Ageratum Bumble Blue (didn't do that well as the other plants grew taller it didn't get enough sun)

Helichrysum "Silver Ribbon" (very pretty but short so needs to be in front if used)

Verbena Hybrid "Superbena Royale Plum Wine" (excellent lower level plant which is upright but also trails)

Trailers:

4-6 Trailing Scavola -Bombay Dark Blue Improved (excellent trailer)

4 - 6 Ipomoea – Potato Vine "Sidekick Black Heart" (excellent trailer)

4-6 Helichrysum "Limelight (excellent trailer)

We filled in a few more plants week of the house tour as some flowers become leggy, and others died off. However the number of plants that needed replacing was far fewer this year than prior years because we initially used more plants and packed them VERY tightly.

Given the wetter than normal summer we watered every three days and dead headed at that time as well. Since Martha lives in town and Anna was often in for activities the watering worked fine.

Planting Notes:

We refreshed the soil by adding extra and incorporated Plant Tone Slow-Release Flower fertilizer to the soil in the fountain prior to planting. We think this helped the plants retain their vibrancy throughout the summer.

When planting bring a broom and dustpan, tarp (ideal to minimize dirt in the cobblestones), gloves, trowels, and clippers, step ladder and electric blower if available.

We replaced the 25 foot hose which was leaking. This appears to be an annual need.

Thank you for the opportunity to steward the Main Street Fountain this summer. It was an honor to do it and we thoroughly enjoyed working together.

Sincerely,

Anna, Robin, and Martha