

THE SEED STORIES

King Kennedy Landscape Team

By Brittany Barski

This Spring, the AMP leader of the King Kennedy Estates had an idea to create job training and employment for the residents of King Kennedy while designing a more beautiful place to live. Ms. Bradley wanted to start a King Kennedy landscape team.

The team is comprised of six residents, seasonal and long term positions, of varying ages. The residents have little to no gardening or landscaping experience and were a somewhat skeptical of the new position. But after meeting weekly with Ms. Barski, the Landscape Assistant, they have really become enthused to make a difference in their community.

With the assistance of the King Kennedy staff, the team has access to all of the tools of the trade, the plants needed for the site, and the help of moving large quantities of soil and mulch throughout the estate. Each person on the staff has helped the team to get the landscaping projects completed.

The King Kennedy landscape team has been diligently working throughout the site. They began in the Carl B. Stokes Mall by removing weeds and pruning. They also replaced missing flowers in the beds and planted close to 75 annuals at the signage flower bed at the corner of the estate. The group then moved to establishing new flower beds at the pavilion area in Delaney Village. They also pruned the lower branches of the trees to keep the area open and safe. The landscape team planted roses, hostas, and annuals near the pavilion. They were very proud to see that they could create a beautiful space from a formerly unsightly area.

The King Kennedy landscape team has been moving throughout the entire estate creating new flower beds and maintaining the property. The neighboring residents have really appreciated their hard work and dedication. Neighbors have been saying thank you and bringing out cold drinks to the group. Children have also come out to volunteer to with the group.

The most thankful resident has been Ms. Church. She has lived in the neighborhood her entire life. She remembers the time when there were flowerbeds and colorful flowers everywhere. She has been maintaining a flowerbed in front of her home on Woodland for years but had to minimize what she was growing because of the expense. She screamed "hallelujah!" when she saw us coming up to her residence with a cart full of flowers. She even came over to the bed and started to till by hand.

What truly makes the King Kennedy Landscape team so successful is the teamwork throughout the CMHA community. The King Kennedy staff and management, the neighbors and the residents have gone above and beyond to help the landscape team. With their help and support, they are able to create beautiful spaces at King Kennedy. The entire community at King Kennedy has helped and encouraged the landscape team to be successful.