

BLAIR STREET GARDENS
NEWSLETTER and NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING
SPRING 2023

THANK YOU for your contribution to Blair Street Gardens. Some of you are first time donors, many of you have given for many years. How wonderful to visit our post office box, retrieve the envelopes, and see the generous checks with so many familiar names, and new ones as well. We thank you all. With your help, Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc. maintains two gardens at or near the intersection of John Nolen Drive and Blair, Wilson and Williamson Streets in downtown Madison.

- *Gateway Garden* on the 600 block of Williamson Street
- *Wilson Green* on the 400 block of E. Wilson Street

As we begin our 2023 season, you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 21 to plan activities and elect Board members and officers.

NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

807 Jenifer Street

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Elect
board &
officers | • Adopt
the
budget | • Plan for
2023 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|

GATEWAY GARDEN UPDATE

Street Construction

The construction at the “hairball” intersection at Williamson, Blair, and John Nolen Drive required the temporary removal of part of the stone retaining wall and the destruction of many plants. The construction crew rebuilt the wall, and the Parks Department provided replacement plants. Unfortunately, the plants

didn’t fare well, and we need to replant again. BSG is participating in Dane County’s Plant Dane program which provides native plants to public gardens. See the article below.

Reiner Family Tree

The street construction also disconnected the electricity to the site which meant the Reiner Family Tree was dark for much of the holiday season. Fortunately, the state and city were able to connect temporary service, and the tree was lit toward the end of the season.

The tree commemorates the first Christmas tree in Madison, erected in 1855 in the home of the Reiner family which once stood near the garden. Thank you to the Reiner Family for continuing to support the Gardens and for lighting the tree every holiday season.

DONATE NATIVE PLANTS TO OUR GARDENS – DEADLINE IS MARCH 21

We invite you to donate native plants to our gardens through the Plant Dane Native Plant Program, a project of Dane County’s Land and Water Resources Department. Donors can purchase plants for Blair Street Gardens grown by a local grower. Plants are \$2.75 each and must be ordered in multiples of 4, for a minimum donation of \$11. To order, go to: <https://ripple-effects.com/Order/Donate>.

Look for the Project field, then click on the down arrow and select The Gateway Garden of Blair Street Gardens. Then select the number of sets you’d like to donate (each set is 4 plants). The plant varieties will be selected by BSG. *The deadline to donate is March 21.*

Plants will be used to replace the plants destroyed at the Gateway Garden due to

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BLAIR STREET GARDENS P.O. Box 1333 Madison, WI 53701-1333

info@blairstreetgardens.org www.blairstreetgardens.org

[www.facebook.com/ Blair Street Gardens](https://www.facebook.com/BlairStreetGardens)

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison

- **CONT'D from OTHER SIDE** -

street construction. Donations through this program would be greatly appreciated, and are an inexpensive way to maintain the gardens.

WILSON GREEN UPDATE

BSG's second garden is Wilson Green, located on E. Wilson Street across from Come Back Inn. We maintained the large, raised perennial bed last year, adding plants donated by contributors.

The City has widened the street next to the garden in 2023 for a westbound bike lane which has resulted in the loss of a few feet of grass between the current sidewalk and the raised bed. Thus far, the raised perennial bed does not seem to be impacted.

MAINTAINING THE GARDENS

BSG had a crew of 5 active volunteers who visit the gardens regularly to weed, prune, mulch and pick up litter. We also returned to scheduling occasional volunteer events in 2022 and will do so in 2023. Check our Facebook page or website for the latest schedule (nothing is scheduled yet). To receive e-mails about the schedule, email us at the address below. Or look for signs posted at the gardens. You can also volunteer on your own schedule – if interested, email us.

THANKS TO THE BOARD

Thank you to the 2023 Officers and Board members - Ellen Henningsen, President and Acting Treasurer; Mary Knapp, Vice-President; Kevin Earley, Secretary; and Gary Tipler, Board member.

TREASURER NEEDED

Do you like to count money? Blair Street Gardens Committee is looking for a volunteer to handle the duties of Treasurer. Duties take about 2 hours a month, and include maintaining financial records and mailing lists, handling mail, paying bills, processing contributions, etc. If interested or for more information, email BSG at info@blairstreetgardens.org.

BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

If you are interested in helping guide Blair Street Gardens over the next season, please consider joining the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include 1-2 meetings a year, plus being available for input via e-mail or phone. If you prefer, you can participate on an informal basis. If interested, e-mail info@blairstreetgardens.org.

AND THANKS -

Thanks to Kate Nagel of Business Support Solutions, LLC, for volunteering her time and expertise to maintain our website.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE PLANT DANE NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

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