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Group keeps Noblesville beautiful

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Intern

For the past nine years, Keep Noblesville Beautiful has been living up to its name with highway cleanups, daffodil plantings, renovation and, more recently, putting an earthy and efficient touch on the grounds of The Belfry Theatre on Greenfield Avenue in Noblesville.

"For our current project we created a rain garden," said Noblesville's Donna Parker of Keep Noblesville Beautiful. A rain garden is a small garden that receives its water from leftover rain in a building's guttering system. The water travels from the top of the building, down into the gutter underneath the ground, finally making its way toward the garden and supplying it with plenty of water.

The gardens are filled with seasonal flowers to provide a variety of color throughout the entire year; for the plantings at the Belfry, blues, violets, pinks, and whites show through vividly.

"Every season, there will be a new color which helps it keep looking nice," Parker said.

Parker has been on the board of Keep Noblesville Beautiful for about seven years. She joined shortly after retirement because she felt she "needed to give back to the community."

Keep Noblesville Beautiful provides educational programs and community action programs that help government, businesses and citizens work together to provide litter prevention, cleanup, neighborhood beautification and other services.

One of the most recognizable projects for Keep Noblesville Beautiful is the annual Gateway Enhancement Daffodil Plantings. Each fall, volunteers plant vibrant yellow daffodils as well as do landscaping on the gateways into Noblesville. In 2014, more than 1,500 daffodils were planted.

"We are trying to work on all the major entrances into Noblesville so that in the spring all these beautiful daffodils come up and make it look really nice," Parker said.



Donna Parker said putting in a rain garden at The Belfry Theatre is part of what Keep Noblesville Beautiful does.

Want TO HELP? Become a volunteer with Keep Noblesville Beautiful at www.keepnoblesvillebeautiful.org. The group will participate in the White River Festival Cleanup at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, departing from the Noblesville Moose Lodge No. 540, 950 Field Drive, Noblesville.

Not only has the organization helped the community on the macro scale, but the volunteers also help the individuals by doing small neighborhood cleanups.



"We will pick a neighborhood and go do a small cleanup," Parker said. "Not everybody has the means to (do that). Maybe they've got some old tires that need to be hauled away or something, so we do that."

By doing this work, the organization does not only want to share beauty across the town but also share a message of philanthropy.

"I would like for this to help someone take pride in doing something just for the good of the whole community, not necessarily just something for yourself," Parker said. "I think everyone needs to (give back) somehow, be involved."

At The Belfry, Keep Noblesville Beautiful has worked on the project in phases. Volunteers prepared the west and south

sides of the building for plantings, removed overgrown shrubbery and placed two urns at the entrance in September 2014; then installed trees, shrubs and mulch in early October; then installed stone around the plantings in late October. Parker said they have worked on the project throughout this summer and will continue to do so this fall as part of their work in Keep Noblesville Beautiful.