

# The Outdoor Haven Pathway Makeover and Garden Addition



## What does 'stewardship' mean in horticulture?

Stewardship of the earth requires knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Decisions that impact directly or indirectly the ecosystem in which we live at Trinity Village are evidence-based and carefully applied to mitigate any known negative cascading effect on the property's ecosystem and beyond. Within best horticulture practices, we consider and balance the ecological and economic realities on the property, for the well-being of elders, employees, and visitors.

## The unique considerations of the Outdoor Haven.

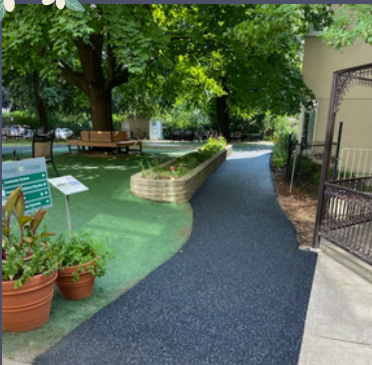
The opportunity to rest comfortably in the dappled shade of an old tree is a rare gift these days. One cannot over-estimate the value of the mature trees in the Outdoor Haven. Yet these same trees were busting the asphalt walking path with their growing root systems, making the entire Outdoor Haven space unusable. Further the artificial grass that made large gatherings possible was in desperate need of renewal because of the same root growth. At Trinity Village we realized we needed to acquire knowledge and understanding of the importance and impact of the Outdoor Haven trees before we could solve the problem that their roots had created along the pathway and across the lawn.



# Sometimes the best solutions require compromise.

Enter NSI Solutions Inc. which took the time to assess the health of the six large trees and make invaluable suggestions that would support their longevity in the Outdoor Haven. These trees were too important in function and beauty to lose in pathway and lawn reconstruction. While the apparent ideal solution might be to remove all the asphalt and put in a new permeable pavement, it was more important to reach a compromise for the sake of the trees. What is the Outdoor Haven space without the trees?

Armed with this new understanding and knowledge, it was a straightforward decision not to remove the decaying asphalt in order to put in a new pathway but to carefully cut around the transacts of root buckling the current pavement, fill the voids with clear gravel, and apply a permeable flexible rubber/granite resin mix on top of the old pavement. This reduced the need to sever large roots (the trees' life blood) to make way for new pavement. It also alleviated the need for large equipment in the area that would further compact the already compacted soil left from the construction of the Care Centre so many years earlier. Compacted soil is a killer of roots. The study further suggested that the size of the artificial lawn could be reduced and concentrated to only those places used during large gatherings. This left a sizeable semi-circle around the Norway Spruce to add another garden for the community to enjoy.



While it took more than one year to complete, it was worth the time necessary to step back and first gain an understanding of the land needs before moving forward to mitigate the problem. Living sustainability is a thoughtful process.

