

Request for Civic Development Grant

June 2019

Club: **Carlisle Garden Club, Carlisle MA**
President(s): **Alison Saylor and Deb Van Walsum**
District: **Middlesex**
Members: **63**
Contact Person: **Cecile Sandwen**
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Project Title: **Renovation of Town Center Rotary Garden**
Amount Requested: **\$1,200**

Summary of Project: The Rotary Garden, located at the middle of Carlisle's central traffic circle, was originally planted by the Carlisle Garden Club (CGC) in 1968, with a major replanting in the 1990's. It is centrally located in the town's business district within the historic district, and is highly visible to all traffic passing through town. It is also a key focal site for the town's civic activities such as the annual Old Home Day celebration and is where a wreath for the annual Memorial Day Parade is laid. As well, the Rotary Garden is the Town's central site for its Halloween festivities which directly revolve around the garden. Over the past fifty years, the CGC's Civic Committee has added plants and maintained the garden.

The garden is a circle with a historic Civil War statue at its center. The planted area is approximately 1,500 square feet. Over the past few years, many of the older shrubs have died or not thrived, and recently several large evergreens had to be removed to clear sight lines. This summer the traffic circle edging around the garden will be modified with higher cement curbing around its entire circumference. Although this change will reduce the size of the garden by about 100 square feet to a new total of 1,400 square feet, the higher edging is anticipated to give it more protection from passing traffic and winter road salt, sand and other debris.

Given this scheduled change and the age of the plot, the Club wants to take this opportunity to renovate the entire traffic circle garden. The key objectives for the renovation include:

- Plant removal, soil improvement and water system – Removal of shrubs and perennials that are not thriving, replenishment of the soil with compost, and upgrade of the watering system.
- Drought-tolerant plants – Utilization of plants that will thrive in sunny, hot, dry conditions, once established.
- Native plants – Planting of native species that are appropriate for the site conditions, wherever possible.
- Size-appropriate plants/shrubs – Focus on selection of low-growing plants and dwarf shrub cultivars to maintain safe sight-lines for surrounding traffic.
- Continuous display of color – Allowance for succession of bloom/foilage so there is always an attractive display of plants and shrubs throughout all seasons.
- Large plant masses for visual impact – Utilization of larger drifts and masses of each plant species to provide ease in maintenance and dramatic visual impact, especially when viewed from a moving vehicle.
- Historic Civil War Statue as focal point – Feature this memorial statue as the central focal point of the garden, providing a clear space beneath the plaque for public access/visibility during Memorial Day Parade.

1. This work represents a renovation of an existing, highly visible town garden to create a new one. We plan to seek permission from the Town's Historic Commission as soon as the specific plans for the traffic circle changes are approved. We plan to modify the irrigation systems and soil in late fall 2019. In Spring 2020, we plan to complete the traffic circle garden planting.
2. This request complies with the grant's purpose because it would assist the town by improving an important central historic town garden that is in critical need of renovation.
3. The entire Club (63 members) is involved in fundraising for this project via our bi-annual Garden Tour, which takes place June 2019. The Civic Committee (18 people) has been involved in planning the renovation and will be actively involved in maintaining the garden going forward. To prepare and implement this plan with necessary review and approvals by the DPW, Selectmen, Historical Commission, and Club members will involve approximately 65 hours of volunteer hours for this Civic Committee Project.
4. Partnerships:
 - a. The Carlisle Garden Club plans to contribute up to \$3,500. of its own monies for this project.
 - b. The Town DPW will contribute mulch and personnel to also help maintain the garden and has agreed to assist with major plant removal.
 - c. Several perennials will be procured from members' gardens. Some shrubs and perennials will be re-used from the current garden, but will need to be removed and cared for by club members during site construction.
 - d. A professional landscaper member of our club will help us in the judicious selection of appropriate plants and shrubs.

5. Estimated Project Expenses

Plant Variety	Number	Cost Each	Total Cost
Aronia 'Low scape mound'	6	75	450
Diervilla KODIAK BLACK	6	75	450
Juniperus communis 'Gold Cove'	6	75	450
Philadelphus (Mockorange) 'Snow Dwarf'	3	75	225
Physocarpus (Ninebark) 'Lemon or Burgundy Candy'	6	75	450
Potentilla fruticosa	9	60	540
Rosa Oso Easy Hot Paprika ® or other hardy short landscape roses in groups of 3 per variety	15	35	525
Achillea millefolium 'Little Moonshine or 'Strawberry Seduction', Agastache 'Little Adder', Aster novai-angliae 'Purple Dome', Amsonia hubrichtii or Amsonia 'Blue Ice', Baptisia australis, Bourteloua 'Blonde Ambition', Chrysanthemum 'Cambodian Queen', Nepeta 'Cat's Pajamas', Coreopsis tripteris, Echinacea purpurea 'Pow Wow White' or "Pica Bella', Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau', Gaillardia aristata, Liatris spicata, Monarda didyma or fistulosa, Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah', Penstemon digitalis, Phlox subulata, Schizachryium scoparium 'Carousel', Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks', Sporobolis heterolepsis	7 each variety, but assume not all available	12	840
Assorted bulbs, Crocus, Daffodils, Allium	400 bulbs	.50 - \$1	300
Compost	5 cubic yards	40	200
Mulch	DPW to deliver	Free mulch	\$0
Irrigation equipment/ hoses		\$300	\$300
Shrub delivery and installation	5 hours	\$40	\$200
Total			\$4930

6. Maintenance Plan

- a) Estimated time involved is 9 hours per month. The CGC Civic Committee is responsible for maintaining the Traffic Circle Garden. During the spring, summer and fall, a rotating group of 18 members work at least once monthly to weed, water and replace plants as well as mulch when required. New club members are encouraged to participate each year.
- b) Estimated cost of supplies annually. The CGC usually budgets \$200-300 to maintain the Town Center Rotary Garden annually. Mulch is supplied and delivered by the DPW at no cost. Most of these funds go toward maintaining the irrigating system and new plants.