



STONINGTON
GARDEN CLUB

**NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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STONINGTON GARDEN CLUB RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

First ever GCA grant received by the Club

STONINGTON, CONN. (June 3, 2024) –The Stonington Garden Club (SGC) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a Partners for Plants (P4P) grant from The Garden Club of America (www.gcamerica.org/partners-for-plants). The Garden Club of America awards grants annually through their P4P program to facilitate hands-on projects between garden clubs and managers on federal, state, local, and other significant public lands. As a first-time recipient, the Stonington Garden Club has been awarded the maximum 1st-year grant of \$3,000 to renourish, redesign, and replant the public gardens at the Stonington Borough Post Office and the Wayland’s Wharf Rain Garden, which is on land owned by Stonington Borough.

The Club created the Borough Post Office garden from the proceeds of their first garden tour in 1961 and has cared for the garden ever since. As part of the Club’s Native Plant Project, the garden will be redesigned and replanted with native plants that absorb toxins and harmful carbon emissions, and feed pollinating birds and bees to support our human food sources. In addition, the grant will be used to expand Wayland’s Wharf Rain Garden to maximize its capacity to capture contaminated stormwater runoff from the parking area using native plants as filters before the water flows into Stonington Harbor.

“We are thrilled to have received this grant from the Garden Club of America – our first ever from this prestigious organization,” said Kirby Williams, SGC co-president and co-chair of the Club’s Native Plant Project. “Reimagining these public gardens with native plantings will have a broad, long-term impact on protecting our community’s clean air and water while supporting pollinators who protect our food supply.”

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Renovation of these two public gardens is part of the Club's Native Plant project (www.stoningtongardenclub.org/native-plant-project). This all-club project will educate our members and the public about the critical role native plants play in nourishing pollinators, withstanding the weather impact of climate change, absorbing harmful carbon from the air, and filtering toxins.

The project's expected 2026 completion date will coincide with the Stonington Garden Club's 100th Anniversary of its founding, and these renewed public gardens will be the Club's centennial gift to the town of Stonington. The completed gardens will also be featured in the Club's popular Gardens by the Sea tour in June 2026.

About the Stonington Garden Club

Established in 1926, the Stonington Garden Club is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose purpose is to educate and encourage interest in the environment and conservation, support community projects, and stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening. The Club has partnered with community leaders for nearly a century to positively impact the town and residents with lasting contributions through education, beautification, and environmental programs. For more information or to inquire about membership, please visit www.stoningtongardenclub.org.

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