

Native Plant Project

A Centennial Gift to the Community

The Native Plant Project's (NPP) purpose is:

- to redesign and replant community gardens in Stonington to include a majority of native plants;
- to educate the public on the importance of Native Plants (cleans pollutants from air & water; pollinator food source);
- to encourage the community to promote and plant native plants.



NPP Gardens:

Wayland's Wharf Rain Garden – originally created and planted in 2017 by SGC in partnership with the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD). A new plan was approved by the Borough to expand the rain garden and replant. The project is on hold, awaiting the completion of engineering work on the sea wall. Expected start date: August-September 2025

Stonington Borough Post Office Garden – originally created and planted in 1961 by SGC, this garden's redesign was approved by membership in fall 2024 and was partially replanted in October 2024. Plants grown from winter sowing of 4 native flowering plants in February 2025 will be added to the garden in spring 2025.

Harborside Garden near Stonington Playground – this garden was created and planted with native plants in December 2024. Ongoing care will be by the Borough of Stonington.

Historic Stonington Meadow – located on Quana Duck Cove, SGC funded and participated in planting 3,000 daffodils in this Palmer Street meadow in October 2023. Seeds for native plants of coordinated colors (purple, blue, orange) will be planted at the February Winter Sowing workshop, and the seedlings will be planted in the meadow in spring 2025.

Trees:

2023 – SGC donated \$2,500 to the Town of Stonington to plant new native trees on town property after the town estimated it lost 200 trees from storm and wind damage.

2025 – SGC would like to plant a white oak tree, Connecticut's state tree, on town property near the Town Hall on Elm Street. White Oak trees are slow-growing 50-100 feet in height with a broad leafy canopy that provides vibrant fall color. This gift to the town would include the services of a professional arborist to ensure healthy development of the tree's small root system, an element vital to the tree's longevity.

Educational Signage:

- A brochure available at the Post Office
- Signage promoting native plants to be placed in each redesigned and replanted garden.

Note: The Native Plant Project was approved by the SGC Board in May 2023. In May 2024 SGC was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Garden Club of America to work on the two gardens located on municipally owned properties, Wayland's Wharf and the Stonington Borough Post Office garden. The club is currently applying for an additional grant of \$3,000 to complete work on these projects.