

# Civic Projects Archives—A list outlining projects from 1941 to 1985

## Civic and Conservation Projects 1941-1985

### Green Fingers Garden Club

- 1941--Supervised and helped Girl Scouts lay out and cultivate 16 vegetable garden plots on an acre of land on the Post Road between Park Place and Park Avenue lent by Thomas N. Cooke, Inc. Half the produce went to the Greenwich Hospital and the other half to the girls. A prize was given for the best garden at a gala picnic held for all.
- 1949-
- 1954--The planting of trees on Greenwich Avenue--After two years of study, surveys, permits from 60 property owners, conferences, negotiations and interviews (including making a master map of the five utilities), Green Fingers, Gertrude Howland and the Civic Development Committee of the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, with the cooperation of the Town Tree Warden and the Department of Public Works, were able to make the initial planting of four pin oaks on Greenwich Avenue. Subsequent to this, Green Fingers was joined by Greenwich Garden Club and Hortulus in planting 12 more trees.
- 1957--30 Christmas wreaths were made for Newington Hospital. Plants and arrangements were given to Greenwich Hospital.
- 1958--Contributed to Planting Program of Stamford Rehabilitation Center.
- 1960-
- 1962--Planted more pin oaks on Greenwich Avenue.
- 1964--Constructed and planted garden at Nathaniel Witherell for which Betty Reed and Aline McDonnell were awarded the GCA Medal of Merit.
- 1967--Joined Operation Poste Haste for litter clean up.
- 1969--Contributed to YMCA planting.
- 1972-
- 1973--Planted ivy in rear parking area of YMCA.
- 1973--The Hub Project -Cos Cob. Planted area in front of White's.
- 1974-
- 1975--Greenwich Railroad Station Project-In coordination with Chamber of Commerce planted ten black pines along wall on west side of station. Helped with funding of planting on east side.
- 1974--Assisted Jaycees plan pocket park on Greenwich Avenue.
- Worked with Greenwich Garden Club on Great Captain Island improvement project.

1974--Provided three historic signs on Post Road: 1) Site of first toll station; 2) Quarry from which stone for Brooklyn Bridge was taken; 3) Horseneck Creek.

1974-

1976--The Greening of the Post Road--Under the guidance of Thelma Maloney, and in coordination with local businesses and the town, more than 150 trees were planted from the New York line to Greenwich Avenue. Also planted were six cement planters filled with geraniums and a spring bulb garden by the "Gateway to New England" sign.

--Planned pocket park on Edgewood Island (Pettengill Park) funded by Rotary Club.

--Planned Kiwanis Park at Oak Street and Post Road #2.

--Planned pocket park at Lewis and Mason Streets dedicated to the Police Department.

1976--Provided grass for Israel Putnam House.

--Provided plants for east side of railroad station.

1977--With Hortulus, provided funds for GARC green house.

1978--Continued tree planting program.

1979--Replaced heating plant at Greenwich Garden Center greenhouse

--Provided landscaping at Greenwich Library.

--Provided new fence at Greenwich Family Center play area.

1980--Provided landscaping at YMCA parking lot.

--Provided playground equipment and benches at Greenwich Common

--Provided Greenwich Library Roof Garden.

1981--Provided plantings for the Lower Landing, a waterside park across from the Bush-Holley House in Cos Cob.

1982--Sponsored Roger Tory Peterson exhibit at Bruce Museum.

1983--At the Audubon Center: 1) Restored the Fairchild Garden gazebo; 2) Provided the demonstration garden for wildlife next to the interpretive wing.

1984--Redesigned and landscaped the front of the Arts Center-Senior Center on Greenwich Avenue.

--Provided landscaping at Greenwich Youth Shelter.

1985--Continued replanting trees on Post Road.

--Planted wildflower meadow at Babcock Property.

--Planted bulbs in pocket parks.

**A Pamphlet created to outline Civic Projects**

## GREEN FINGERS GARDEN CLUB GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

Since 1990 Green Fingers Garden Club has worked to conserve, preserve and enhance the quality of life in Greenwich through specific educational and conservation efforts and civic improvement.

### The Greening of Greenwich



- Plants & replaces trees on Greenwich Avenue
- Began the greening of the Post Road with cooperative effort of town and local businesses. Planted over 150 Bradford pear trees
- Provides over 20 hanging flower baskets for Putnam Avenue — each year.
- Provided spring bulbs for all pocket parks each year.



### Pocket Parks

Green Fingers has established/assisted with "Gateway to New England" park on Post Road, parks at Lewis and Mason Streets, at Greenwich Avenue above Lewis Street, the Lower Landing across from Bush-Holley House, Strickland Park and the Greenwich Ferry Boat Landing.



### Playgrounds

Playground equipment and benches at Greenwich Common.



### Gardens

At Nathaniel Withersell home.



### Landscaping

At the Arts Center-Senior Center, the YWCA, YMCA, Greenwich Library and roof garden, Greenwich Railroad Station, the Boy Scout Lodge at Seton Reservation, and established wild flower meadow at the Babcock property.



### Funds for Projects at:

The Audubon Center, Bruce Museum, Bush-Holley House, Great Captain's Island, Greenwich Association for Retarded Citizens, Greenwich Family Center, Greenwich Garden Center, Greenwich Railroad station, Greenwich Youth Shelter, Israel Putnam House, YWCA.



### Education

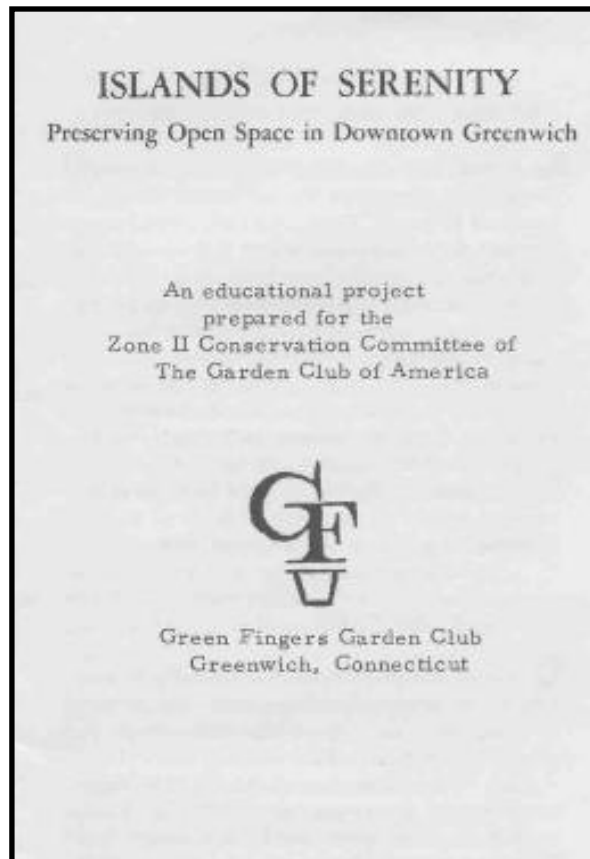
- Has provided scholarships for Youth Conservation Project since its inception.
- Provides courses, lectures.
- Instigated many conservation projects and educational opportunities in Greenwich.

Green Fingers Garden Club  
is a member of the  
Garden Club of America.

# Civic Projects Archives

## "Islands of Serenity"

An pamphlet describing the preservation of open space in downtown Greenwich



**W**e invite you to look around your community for a patch of open space that you could rescue from neglect, from debris, from concrete.

Ever since its founding in 1935, the Green Fingers Garden Club of Greenwich, Connecticut, has combined its efforts at conservation and preservation with civic improvement -- in establishing or preserving green areas for the whole town to enjoy.

It's astonishing how effective a single garden club can be, when it's combined with a lot of effort and community cooperation! The Green Fingers Garden Club raises money for its conservation program by holding an annual flower show, Preview of Spring, which has won The Garden Club of America award seven times. Profits from the 1984 Preview, for instance, enabled Green Fingers to join the Connecticut Chapter of the Nature Conservancy in its successful effort to preserve Chimon Island as a wildlife refuge. In 1985 Preview of Spring celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary, bringing the scent of spring to early March and filling the coffers for our current projects.

This display outlines a few of our recent efforts to return land to public enjoyment. Please get in touch with us if you would like more information.

GREEN FINGERS GARDEN CLUB  
Greenwich, Connecticut

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE  
IN DOWNTOWN GREENWICH

Community Conservation Projects  
of the Green Fingers Garden Club

THE LOWER LANDING

**Y**esterday a wasteland of weeds and rubbish, today a park dedicated to an almost forgotten part of Greenwich history. This is the Lower Landing, the town's principal port during colonial times. Here were the bustling docks from which harvests from the rich Greenwich farmlands -- potatoes, strawberries, celery, apples, hay -- were shipped to New York on schooners. Here was a gristmill, salt-works, sail lofts, and blacksmiths' shops. Here, too, beginning in the mid-1800s, steamers landed bearing the summer folk -- visitors fleeing New York's typhoid for a summer in the Connecticut countryside.

As Greenwich's farmland dwindled, the Lower Landing fell into disuse. Until 1982 it lay, unkempt, in the shadow of the Connecticut Turnpike's overpass, and was used as a storage area for highway maintenance equipment. The Green Fingers Garden Club cooperated with the Greenwich Historical Society, whose headquarters are in the ancient Bush-Holley House across the street, in transforming it into a pleasant waterside park, with a grassy lawn, shrubs, trees, seasonal plantings, and benches. The millstone in the center of the park comes from the gristmill that once stood on the site.

### THE POLICE DEPARTMENT PARK

**T**he town of Greenwich allowed the Green Fingers Garden Club to turn an unused, 1,000-square-foot plot of town-owned land into a mini-park, with redwood benches and bayberry shrubs and azaleas. This pleasant bit of open space is situated between Greenwich's main shopping street and two housing projects for the elderly, making it a very welcome resting place. The park, financed by Green Fingers, is dedicated to members of the Greenwich Police Department.

### GREENWICH COMMON

**G**reenwich Common is the largest piece of open land in downtown Greenwich, and a haven for families, the elderly, and workers from the surrounding offices and apartment houses. The Common abuts the athletic fields of the old high school, and when the school was converted into Town Hall, Green Fingers was one of the strongest proponents of keeping the fields as open space rather than developing them.

Green Fingers contributed many plantings to the Common, as well as an award-winning playground that club members established on the former football field, and dedicated to the children of Greenwich.

### "THE GREENING OF THE POST ROAD"

**G**eorge Washington marveled at the vistas from the Post Road in Greenwich: "The superb landscape," he wrote, "is a rich regalia." The Post Road was a century old in Washington's day, and it is still one of this area's busiest thoroughfares. The strip approaching Greenwich is typical of traffic's uglier by-products: a wilderness of body shops, gas stations, car dealers, and fast-food shops.

As its Bicentennial project, the Green Fingers Garden Club chose "The Greening of the Post Road" -- bringing green plantings to several miles of land between Port Chester and the town center, an enormous undertaking that produced marvelous results. Town corporations, banks, clubs, and residents rallied behind us; some encouraged other contributions by promising matching funds. The State Road Commission gave us its blessing, allowing us to turn two weedy, unused traffic islands into parks. We got in touch with every property owner along this stretch of highway and asked them to cooperate in the project. Most agreed readily: some undertook the planting themselves, ripping up concrete and planting trees, grass, hedges, and even flowers. In other cases, Green Fingers arranged for the work to be done, under the supervision of the Greenwich departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, without whose support the project would have been impossible.

### THE GATEWAY TO NEW ENGLAND

**A**fter winding through Port Chester's body shops, the Post Road emerges into Greenwich at a broad, grassy median, planted simply but effectively with hedges and golden marigolds. "The Greening of the Post Road" got off to a good start when the state allowed Green Fingers to begin its project with this important area -- "the Gateway to New England."



#### THE PETTENGILL ROTARY PARK

**A**n awkwardly shaped piece of land, once overgrown, became the loveliest of the rescued areas. The Green Fingers Garden Club supplied plans for landscaping, and when we sought the help of the Rotary Club in turning this spot from an eyesore into useable open space, they readily agreed, donating funds in memory of Charles W. Pettengill, who had been active in Greenwich and international Rotary affairs. Several private individuals also contributed trees, and the Greenwich Department of Public Works has made a special effort to turn the granite outcropping into a pleasant garden.

#### THE KIWANIS PARK

**C**lose to each other on the Post Road are two rocky outcroppings. One, surrounded by tangled grass, is surmounted by a garish billboard. The other was reclaimed during "The Greening of the Post Road," with tended grass and shrubbery -- a lovely place to have lunch on a sunny day. The Greenwich Kiwanis Club worked with Green Fingers in establishing this park.

All along the Post Road you can see low hedges that were planted during "The Greening of the Post Road." They are just high enough to hide car radiators, and serve as a surprisingly effective disguise for the parking lots behind them.

#### THE JAYCEE PARK

**T**his is a "pocket park" -- 25 feet wide and 93 feet deep -- tucked between two buildings on heavily-traveled Greenwich Avenue. Trees, benches, and paths lined with rhododendron and flowers make it one of the few places pedestrians can sit down in this part of Greenwich. The Greenwich Jaycees and the Green Fingers Garden Club worked together on this project, which was also heavily supported by local banks, corporations, and individuals.

**T**he success of these projects would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Public Works Department of the Town of Greenwich, which maintains them beautifully. The community, too, appreciates and values these open spaces: there has been astonishingly little vandalism, considering how heavily they are used.

**T**his strong community support encourages us to continue looking for areas to preserve for public enjoyment. On your way home, why not keep an eye out for a neglected bit of your environment that you and your friends could rescue!

Green Fingers Conservation Chairman:  
Mrs. Herbert W. Moloney, Jr.

Assembled by Mrs. G. S. Beckwith Gilbert

Photographs for the display taken by  
Mrs. George M. Whitmore, Jr.

