

Green Fingers Garden Club Pollinator Garden at Byram Park

The Civic/ Conservation Committee Report
April 2, 2018

The mission of the Green Fingers Garden Club is to increase the knowledge of horticulture, to develop the art of flower arrangement, to further the ideas of conservation and to work for the development of civic projects.

The Green Fingers Garden Club and the Town of Greenwich have a history of private/public partnerships projects and have worked together on successfully completing civic improvement projects at Greenwich Point, the Ferry Boat Landing, and Crocus Hill among others. Several members of the Club have regularly asked that we look at potential projects in the Western part of Town. Since the Junior League has been working on the “Greenwich Pool at Byram Park” and the Town has received gifts for the improvement of the park, we approached Town officials to inquire as how we could work together on a project. Green Fingers had worked with the Greenwich Point Conservancy to create the “Gateway Garden”, and the beauty and clear enhancement of the area was extremely gratifying and attractive for the entire Greenwich community. We felt a bookend to that garden in Byram could be the perfect fit. The town has concurred.

The Green Fingers Garden Club membership has unanimously endorsed and voted to support the Byram Park Project to donate a completed gift to the Town of Greenwich for a garden at the Byram Park Pool area (not to exceed \$35,000). This will be a pollinator garden including native plants and educational signage. Green Fingers Garden Club has had a long standing interest in civic improvement and has identified the Byram Park Project as an ideal project that is consistent with its mission and area of interest.

Initial landscape design thoughts included planting the substantial rock face behind the pool. This was eliminated due to the difficulty of planting and maintaining the space. The area that projects into Long Island Sound, where the original pool was located, is currently quite bare and uninviting. The town has planted some trees and Green Fingers will add a border of mostly native plants to attract pollinators. Additionally, signage will be added to explain the area’s

history and more importantly, the importance of native plants for nectar to feed pollinators and for serving as host plants to lay eggs.

Green Fingers has met with; Joe Siciliano Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Bruce Spaman, Superintendent Parks and Trees Division and Darrin Wigglesworth, Park Operations Manager and has engaged Peter Grunow (GroPro Landscaping) to help in design and planting. Peter is the Landscape Architect that designed Greenwich Point. Peter and Tom Homicki have donated their design time. See attachments for (1)Landscape Plan, (2) GroPro's Preliminary List of Plants, (3) Project Timeline, (4)GroPro's Project Budget.

Ginger Jenks
Jane Marsh
Co-Chairs, Civic/ Conservation Committee

