

FINAL REPORT – Civic Development and Historical Landscape Grant Garden Club of Norfolk – Veterans Memorial Garden Restoration

The Veterans Memorial, located in the historic 1745 Norfolk Cemetery, was designed by landscape architect Lowell Robinson. The lower gardens on either side of the granite steps leading to the Memorial were planted sometime between 1996 and 2001, with junipers and yews. By 2005, all plants had died from lack of maintenance and animal damage. The Norfolk DPW covered the garden with a thick layer of mulch. In 2019, the Garden Club of Norfolk (GCN) was asked by a Norfolk Historical Commission member if the club would consider restoring the lower gardens.

GCN decided to accept the project. A detailed plan was formulated that included the recommendations of two consultants, Amanda Sloan and Betty Sanders, who both specialize in native plant landscape. Considering site location, soil, light, and water needs, we formed a committee and designed a low-maintenance garden that included native shrubs, grasses, and perennials. The Norfolk DPW agreed to provide and place boulders as specified in our plan and annually provide mulch. We applied for the grant from GCFM, which we received. The grant enabled us to move forward with our plan. We also sought donations from local organizations and citizens in memory or honor of loved ones who served our country.



Fall 2020

January 2021

- Soil tests completed by UMass Extension.
- Forty boulders identified and marked by color, size, and placement number.
- Boulders moved by Norfolk's DPW to site. Stakes placed to mark placement of boulders and rocks. Trench dug where boulders were placed.



Spring 2021

March 2021

- All plants were ordered.
- Rocks moved in place, soil filled in and tapped down. GCN thanked the Norfolk DPW crew for giving us a full day of work to get these boulders moved in place.

May 2021

- GCN Members planted 10 varieties of native plants. Planting, mulching, watering, and spraying for deer repellent was completed.

June-August 2021

- Remaining 4 varieties of native plants were planted; 6 varieties of native shade plants were identified and planted at each end of the garden, bringing the total to 257 plants purchased to complete the plan. Maintenance continued all summer and fall.
- A bench in honor of landscape architect, Lowell Robinson, was installed, using funds raised by the Norfolk Historical Commission.

September 2021

- The Lower Veterans Garden and the bench in honor of Lowell Robinson were formally dedicated; the event was hosted jointly by the GCN and the Norfolk Historical Commission.

Spring 2022

- Evaluate Garden and replace any plants damaged by winter kill. Continue maintenance schedule.



Summer 2021

GARDEN REVENUE	
Donations	4,080.00
GCN Donation	500.00
GCFM Grant	750.00
	5,330.00
GARDEN EXPENSES	
Plants	2,870.00
Supplies (hoses, spray)	406.38
Consultant	150.00
Soil Tests	60.99
Plant Labels	300.00
Mulch	69.50
Workers Lunch	232.19
	4,089.06
BALANCE	1,240.94