

Award #: 44

Award Name: New President's Project: Plant America - Starting at Home

Submitted by: Springfield Civic Garden Club/  
Christine Ramirez-Campbell

Number of members in Club: 257  
Date: October 25, 2021

1. **New Project:** Yes  No  **Beginning Date April 1, 2021** **Completion Date: June 10, 2021**

**2. Brief Summary and Objectives of Project.**

*Plant America - Starting at Home is a new award to a club member whose planting project/s and/or beautification on private and/or public local property has made a visual impact in the community.*

I am a member of the the Springfield Ceramic and Craft Club which is a 95 year nonprofit 501c3 organization with the mission of Education of the visual Arts and providing support to local art education and students in the community. Currently there are 130 active members, 45 life members and 32 Sustaining Life members in the Club. The Club gives annual grants to local art educators plus work with public elementary schools for after school Craft time. The club owns their own building with a small frontage area that features turf and miscellaneous plants. (15'x20' area).

In 2020 a former Club President unexpectedly died and the membership wanted to redo the front landscape in her memory. They had collected \$1,500 for the project. They approached me to help in the design of the landscape because I am also a Springfield Civic Garden club member.

After meeting with the 7-member committee with their scope and budget they requested that I help them formulate a design theme. I accepted the challenge but warned them that the expenses for a redo would probably be more than they collected and I would recommend a sponsorship fundraiser to assist.

I am a self taught gardener with 40+ years of planting experience and learning what works in our local soils and weather. Many failures and lots of learning. I presented the committee with three options and themes: a pollinator garden with native plants, a brick small patio with a sitting bench and bushes and a small dry creek planted with 3 seasons of color and blooms featuring perennials, annuals and a Japanese Maple tree.

They chose the "dry creek" landscape with an estimated \$2,000 Budget.

I was in charge of the gravel choice, the plant recommendation, selection, purchasing, planting and assisting with a maintenance schedule. There was a small committee of workers who assisted with the project including several garden club members who were also Craft club members.

Once the plants were selected I created a work schedule to dig the current landscape and save Plants that could be used and were given to members who desired them. This was a no till project and the design left a small grassy perimeter area. I investigated and recommended the best prices for rock and a large Boulder for inscription and dedicated to the former President.

The timeline was short just 3-4 weeks beginning in May and to get the best plants I even did plant sitting till the landscape was ready to plant.

*As this area was part of a neighborhood and a public roadway another goal was to make it a neighborhood revitalization project and to inspire beautification and gardening.*

“Out with the old and in with the new.” A crew of garden club members and Craft members assisted me with the demo, digging the creek bed, planting and watering thru the summer. The rock bed was dug out and filled with three sizes of gravel for the best natural look. The Boulder was selected, purchased and then set. And finally the plants, bushes and tree were all planted in prepared soil. All within a 4-week timetable in May to early June.

Final features included a small concrete bird bath with a Buddha statue for interest, a wooden border and mulch completed the landscape bed. A successful transformation and one that the Craft Club is proud of and met all their goals.



The plant list included:

3 Peony Bowl of Beauty bushes (Spring)  
Japanese Maple, Tamukeyama Cut-leaf  
6 lavender plants  
8 sedums, 4 sedum autumn joy  
Liatris, 3  
Day Lilly, orange smoothie, blazing glory  
Japanese Iris ( Spring)

Hydrangea, Little limelight, 2  
Allium, 3, Giganteum  
Hardy Hibiscus  
Lantana, annuals  
Dwarf Japanese Juniper, 2  
Variegated Lilyturf Liriope, 3

**3. Involvement of club members and other organizations, etc.**

This project involved myself as the project designer, plus two other garden club members that are members of the Springfield Ceramic and Craft Club also and seven volunteers from the Craft club. This does not include the steering committee from the Craft club or the maintenance crew of 8 individuals that volunteered to be on the weekly watering team. There were also over 30 members that made a monetary donation for the project.

**4. Project expenses and means of funding:**

Budget was \$2,500

\$1,500 was donated by the friends of the former Craft Club President

\$1,000 was donated by Craft board and

Craft club members by sponsoring to pay for a plant or plants, \$10-\$150

ACE Hardware gave us a discount on purchased plant items, the price was their wholesale

Expenses totaled \$2,004

Gravel and boulders.....\$947

Pavers.....\$12

Plants.....\$650

Japanese Maple tree....\$150

Mulch .....\$60

Allium Bulbs.....\$30

Drip hose, 2....\$20

Birdbath.....\$70

Fertilizer.....\$15

Border.....\$50

Note: remaining funds will go for continued maintenance or other landscape needs.

**5. Continue involvement, follow-up, maintenance:**

We created a watering team: individuals adopted a week to check the plants and water throughout the Summer into Fall. We do have enough funds for any other maintenance expenses. To inspire continued participation a class credit will be given to Craft club members that participate.

**6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan:**

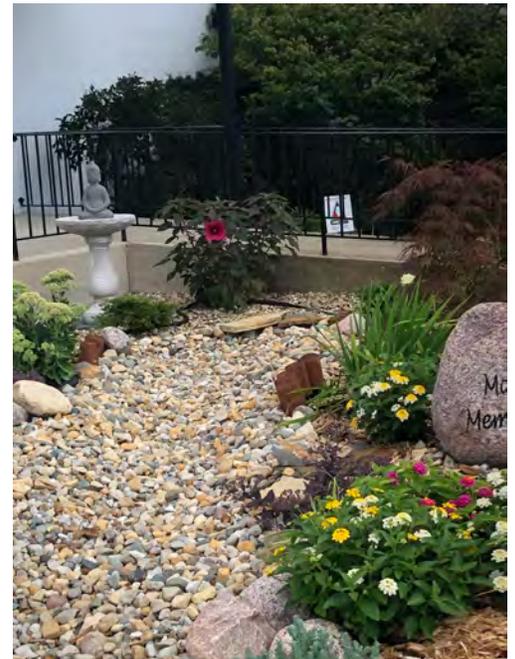
(does not need to be professionally drawn).



**Before:** Top, an old bed and landscape overgrown with violets, phlox and common hosta  
Team cleaning out the bed

**After:** Dry Creek Bed  
Featuring an engraved Boulder

Perennial plants:  
Hydrangeas, Sedum, Peony,  
Lavender, Day Lillies,



**After:**  
Hibiscus,  
Butterfly Bush, Iris, Liatris,  
Annual lantana  
Japanese Maple