

## **Garden Club Hosts Plant Sale to Raise Funds for Local Projects**

Each year, in May, the Garden Club of Concord hosts a plant sale in Concord Center and distributes funds raised to local projects through the Garden Club of Concord Grants Program.

There are over 1,000 beautiful plants to choose from including perennials, shrubs, and groundcovers. The Grant awards focus on three areas in support of the Club's mission including community beautification; conservation and preservation of open space; and therapeutic and educational projects related to gardening and horticulture.

Last year, the Club provided nine grants to a variety of organizations including Gaining Ground, Council on Aging, Concord Land Conservation Trust, Friends of Minuteman National Park, Cooperative Elder Services Inc., and a grassroots organization led by Marc Hanson in partnership with the Town of Concord's Natural Resources Commission. Three additional organizations were grant recipients including The Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, The Zoo New England's Grassroots Wildlife Conservation Program and The Minute Man Arc for Human Services.

The Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House has used the funds to recreate the Little Women Garden in front of the main entrance that, in part, replicates each of the original individual selections of the Alcott sisters. Because of the American Disability Act, the property is undergoing a significant change to improve site circulation.

The Zoo New England's Grassroots Wildlife Conservation Program has used the grant to plant a diverse mix of wildflowers and grasses in an area of the Peter Spring field in Concord and test methods to further increase diversity. These plants help remove and retain carbon from the atmosphere, require little or no continued maintenance and provide habitat to dozens of species of native animals and insect pollinators.

The Minute Man Arc for Human Services used the grant funds for the purchase of three rain-barrel catchment containers, the establishment of a dual-barrel composting unit and seeds and seedlings for their horticulture program.

"The horticulture program at Minute Man Arc is one of the most popular programs with our clients," said Deirdre Bellevue. With a rotating schedule, more than 75 individuals are involved in the process of growing, tending and harvesting produce and flowers in both the onsite greenhouse and the garden plot at the Rogers Community Garden in West Concord.

The Club is currently soliciting grant proposals from local organizations and residents seeking funding for gardening-related community projects. To request a grant application, contact Maryrose Sykes at [b\\_sykes@comcast.net](mailto:b_sykes@comcast.net) or 978-866-8623. Applications are due Oct. 12.

For information, visit <https://gardenclubofconcord.org>



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