

AUDUBON ARTS CENTER MINI-PARK  
Audubon Street  
New Haven, CT

PLANTING AMBASSADORS: Joy Ford, Mary Barnes, Francie Irvine, Joanne Bailey

As a part of the celebration of its centennial in 2024-2025, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Audubon Arts Center Mini-Park. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The Audubon Arts Center Mini-Park existed only on paper in the 1960s, when the State Street Redevelopment and Renewal plan released its vision of an Arts Center for the parcel in the block bounded by Audubon Street, Whitney Avenue, Orange Street and the Farmington Canal Right of Way. Today the Neighborhood Music School, the Creative Arts Workshop, The Arts Council and the Community Foundation of Great New Haven are close neighbors on Audubon Street, and they share a mini-park on land behind CAW and NMS. In 1979 Garden Club member, Laetitia (Letty) Pierson, was president of the Arts Council, she drew up a landscape plan for the Park. The City of New Haven, the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, GCNH and private citizens contributed funds for the landscaping, lighting and fencing of the Park. Today the arts organizations and the Community Foundation can view and enjoy the Park, and use it for enjoyment and outside events

In October 2024, Garden Club members planted 15 shrubs in small groups near CAW's entrance wall, along the NMS's children's play yard and near the rear entrance into the Park. There are five winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash"), with dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until hungry birds feast on the berries! Five summer flowering Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia* "Ruby Spice", were also planted. They will produce long lasting dark pink blossoms, and, grows three or four feet high. In addition, five mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') were added. This evergreen will grow five or six feet high, and burst into gorgeous pink-red blooms in late spring. Each of these plants will bring color and beauty to the mini-park.

Earlier in the year, GCNH planted a Yoshino Cherry tree in the park to honor Nancy Alderman, one of the Garden Club's Centennial environmental Heroes. Nancy was instrumental in initiating the Farmington Canal Greenway Restoration within New Haven as a Rails to Trails project in the 1980s.

CHILDREN'S CENTER  
1400 WHITNEY AVENUE  
HAMDEN, CT  
Contact: Sarah Lockery (slockery@tccoh.org)

PLANTING AMBASSADOR; Sally Tyler

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The Children's Center of Hamden was founded in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and moved to its current site on Whitney Avenue in 1925. For many decades, members of the Garden Club have served on the board of the Children's Center and supported its programs. In 1935, GCNH planted over 100 forsythia bushes opposite the Children's Center on the property of the New Haven Water Company. Even today, they bloom a spectacular yellow every spring.

In September 2024, GCNH members planted three mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') in front of the main building. These are evergreens, which will grow five or six feet high. In late spring the pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom and enhance the campus of the Children's Center.

## EDGERTON PARK CONSERVANCY (EPC)

840 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, CT 06511

Ambassadors and Contacts: Molly LeVan and Vicki DiSesa

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including Edgerton Park. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The Garden Club and the Edgerton Park Conservancy (EPC) have enjoyed a decades-long partnership. After the Frederick F. Brewster family donated its estate to the City of New Haven in 1960, members of the GCNH played a major role in creating an educational center for horticulture in Edgerton Park, to hold workshops, lectures, flower shows and classes are held. Many GCNH members were also active on the board of EPC, a beneficial, symbiotic relationship. In 1991 the Sarah T. Crosby Conservancy opened in Edgerton Park's Community Greenhouses. Sarah Crosby, also known as Sally, was a past president of the Garden Club and of Edgerton Park. In 2019, GCNH remembered its former president, Lucy Eliot, with the planting of "her" own elm tree, which she had grown and nurtured from seed on her property.

In 2018, GCNH members joined members of the EPC to remove mugwort and other invasive species from the northeast corner of the park, and then established a pollinator meadow there to discourage invasives. A year later, GCNH awarded G.R.O.W.E.R.S. the Florence Bradley Award, in recognition of their work at EPC's Community Greenhouses in engaging neurodiverse individuals in gardening and providing horticultural education, employment opportunities and therapy.

When GCNH announced its centennial planting project to celebrate its partners, the Edgerton Park Conservancy decided that the best complement to its existing parkland and historic plantings would be the addition of three mountain laurels in the southeast corner of the park, adjacent to the gatehouse on Cliff Street. The mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') are evergreens, which will grow five or six feet high. In late spring their pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom! As these shrubs grow and thrive, they will be a living reminder of the continued partnership of GCNH and EPC and their joint commitment to providing nature-based opportunities and experiences to the Greater New Haven Community.

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station  
(CAES/Ag Station)  
123 Huntington Street  
New Haven, CT.

Planting Ambassador: Trish Helm

As a part of the celebration of its centennial 2024-2025, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. This project honors the Garden Club of New Haven's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (referred to as CAES or the Ag Station) supports agriculture in a variety of programs. GCNH members are familiar with its campus, and have held their monthly meetings in Jones Auditorium for several decades. Collaboration between GCNH and the Ag Station began in 1922 when GCNH held a Victory flower show at the Ag Station. Thirty years ago, GCNH made a gift for the purchase of plants for a perennial garden on the grounds. In 2016 GCNH presented the Ag Station with the Florence Bradley Award. For many years a member of GCNH has been on the board of the Experiment Station Associates, a non-profit "friends of the Ag Station" organization supporting the mission of CAES. In addition, GCNH makes an annual donation to the Ag Station.

One part of the Ag Station is Lockwood Farm is on Evergreen Avenue in Hamden. It is a large piece of property, away from the urban bustle. GCNH has held several meetings in the outdoor pavilion there. This fall Richard Ccarelli, the Lockwood Farm Research Farm Manager identified a shady slope adjacent to the Lockwood Farm cottage for the planting of three mountain laurels (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah'). These evergreens will grow five or six feet high, and burst into gorgeous pink-red blooms in late spring. They will be a green reminder of the strong partnership between GCNH and the Ag Station.

## EDGERTON PARK CONSERVANCY (EPC)

840 Whitney Avenue

New Haven, CT 06511

Ambassadors and Contacts: Molly LeVan and Vicki DiSesa

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including Edgerton Park. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

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When GCNH announced its centennial planting project to celebrate its partners, the Edgerton Park Conservancy decided that the best complement to its existing parkland and historic plantings would be the addition of three mountain laurels in the southeast corner of the park, adjacent to the gatehouse on Cliff Street. The mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') are evergreens, which will grow five or six feet high. In late spring their pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom! As these shrubs grow and thrive, they will be a living reminder of the continued partnership of GCNH and EPC and their joint commitment to providing nature-based opportunities and experiences to the Greater New Haven Community.

## EDGEWOOD AVENUE MALL

Contact: East Edge Gardeners

Shana Shaner

203-430-0475

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GCNH Ambassadors: Becky Royston, Vicki DeSesa

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Edgewood Avenue Mall. This project honors the Garden Club of New Haven's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The East Edge Gardeners are a small volunteer group who tend and improve the beds along Edgewood Avenue between Pendleton and Norton Streets. This group is an offshoot of Yale's Urban Resources Initiatives (URI) Greenspace program begun in 1995. Today URI and the City's Parks Department still provide guidance and some plants and shrubs.

The Edgewood Avenue Mall was created in the 1890s as the city's residential development pushed west from the city center. Covering about four and a half acres, it is seven blocks long, between Pendleton and Norton Streets. In the 1950s, the Parks Department approached the Garden Club of New Haven to ask for a landscaping plan for trees, shrubs and perennials. GCNH provided a comprehensive plan, and in 1956-57, club members oversaw the planting of several blocks with crabapples, dogwoods, hemlocks, laurels and andromeda. Unfortunately, few of these plants have survived.

In honor of its centennial, GCNH has reconnected with this beautiful part of New Haven. The East Edge Gardeners and members of the GCNH planted four winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash"), with dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until hungry birds feast on the berries! A summer flowering shrub was also planted: Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*, "Ruby Spice"), with dark pink blossoms, that grows three or four feet high. These are on in beds on either side of the Mall as it crosses Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, and they please the eyes of motorists stopped at the lights and those passing through this major thoroughfare.

In the triangular block where Edgewood Avenue splits and the mall emerges, GCNH planted a mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah'). This evergreen will grow five or six feet high, and burst into gorgeous pink-red blooms in late spring to please the pedestrians and drivers who pass the spot. The East Edge Gardeners will water and maintain these vibrant shrubs.

FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC  
374 GRAND AVENUE  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06514  
203-777-7411  
Contact: Karen Helle-Nemiah ([k.helle-nemiah@fhchc.org](mailto:k.helle-nemiah@fhchc.org))

Ambassador: Sally Tyler

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Fair Haven Community Health Clinic. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

Fair Haven Community Health Clinic has provided community health care for over 50 years in several branches. The 2015 provisional class of the Garden Club of New Haven focused on the site of their main clinic on Grand Avenue by clearing an area in the front of the main building, and planting several bushes of knock-out roses, which are still blooming. GCNH has also delivered holiday arrangements to the main desks at Fair Haven Health Clinic.

In September 2024, GNCH members planted three mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') in front of the main building on Grand Avenue. These are evergreens, which will grow five or six feet high. In late spring the pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom! These plants add a green and pretty appeal to the building and a reminder that the Garden Club values the work of the Fair Haven Health Clinic.

Foote School  
50 Loomis Place  
New Haven, Ct 06511

Ambassador: Lisa Totman

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including Foote School. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

Through its faculty, students and parent body, Foote has been involved in many GNCH projects. The school has long enjoyed trips to Edgerton Park to introduce students to the beauty of the park and the joys of green spaces. Two faculty members, Gretchen Merkt and Carol Ross, were instrumental in developing and overseeing an educational program for the Long Wharf Nature Preserve. When GCNH undertook the project "New Haven Green: Heart of the City" and "Safeguarding the American Elm," faculty member John Cunningham, with the support of other faculty, organized a classroom program of nurturing and raising elm seedlings to be planted on the New Haven Green and in other places in the community.

The GCNH Centennial Project wanted to reach out to some local schools to highlight the importance of planting native shrubs beneficial to insects and birds. We hope students will participate in the care of these plants, and be on the path to becoming environmental stewards.

In October, 2024, third grade students planted three summer flowering shrubs in the "Sacred Woods," near the kindergarten pod. These Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* "Ruby Spice), will grow three or four feet high and produce gorgeous deep pink blossoms, which attract pollinators. As they grow and thrive, these shrubs will enhance the Foote School campus and its mission to inspire the young.

As Head of School, Alewa Cooper said: "I want to express my deepest thanks to the Garden Club of New Haven for these shrubs. We look forward to the positive impact these plants will have on our campus. We already have some very dedicated third graders to "tend to" the shrubs."

FORT NATHAN HALE and BLACK ROCK FORTS  
Morris Cove  
New Haven, CT

PLANTING AMBASSADOR: Lisa Totman

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Fort Nathan Hale and Black Rock Forts. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

These forts were built on a basalt ledge jutting into Long Island sound east of New Haven and enjoying a view to the ship channels to New Haven harbor. Black Rock fort was built in 1776. When British forces landed there three years later, they overwhelmed the colonists, destroyed the fort, and moved quickly into New Haven. In the early 1800s the U.S. Navy constructed a new fort, and named it after one of Connecticut's most well-known patriots, Nathan Hale. During the War of 1812, soldiers in the barracks there repelled British attempts to land. The fort was rebuilt for use during the Civil War but those stationed there saw no action.

In 1967 Harry and Deb Townshend spearheaded a community effort to restore Fort Nathan Hale and enhance the area. It was rededicated in 1976, as a part of the Bicentennial. The Garden Club of New Haven donated \$2,000 from its Civic Planting Fund for the planting of shrubs surrounding the Flag Court. In 1970 the U.S. Department of Interior added the Fort to the National Register of Historic Places.

In November, 2024, members of the Garden Club of New Haven consulted with members of the Morris Cove Garden club to determine the kind of shrubs best suited to the site. They chose four winterberry hollies to be placed around the building. Three female plants were planted and one male. The variety GCNH selected was *Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash", with dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until the hungry birds feast on the berries! The Garden Club is proud to contribute to this historic site.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
37 Union Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

Contact: Allison Mangles  
203-785-0794 x110  
[www.habitatgnh.org](http://www.habitatgnh.org)  
Ambassador: Pixie Elsberry

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including Habitat for Humanity. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven aims to revitalize neighborhoods and alleviate substandard housing by building and renovating affordable housing for selected applicants who contribute sweat equity and agree to repay a mortgage. GCHN member Jennifer Rook has been an active supporter of Habitat since 2005. A decade ago, under her guidance, Garden Club members planted bulbs at one of the newly rehabilitated houses.

In September 2024, Habitat Director Dennis Michaels and Alison Mangles, the resident family, two Habitat volunteers and several GCNH members planted three mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') in front of one of the recently renovated Habitat houses in New Haven. These are evergreens which will grow five or six feet high. In late spring the pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom!

HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL  
1105 Whitney Ave  
Hamden, CT 06517

Contact Planting Partner  
Dawn Michelle  
203 752 2617  
[dmicelli@hamdenhall.org](mailto:dmicelli@hamdenhall.org)

Ambassador: Linda Badgley  
[Lbadgley1@gmail.com](mailto:Lbadgley1@gmail.com)

Hamden Hall school was founded in 1912 and has been a respected member of the community throughout its history. The school has 3 campuses, preschool through high school and is on a prominent site on a well traveled part of Whitney Avenue. It has an appealing landscape plan, screening the parking lot from the street. School buildings are located on both sides of a small public park. The GNH recognizes the importance of Hamden Hall in the educational community and as a lovely green space in its neighborhood.

HOPKINS SCHOOL  
Forest Road  
New Haven, Ct

PLANTING AMBASSADORS: Katherine Glendenning and Samantha Whitney

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including Hopkins School. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The GCNH Centennial Project wanted to reach out to some local schools to highlight the importance of planting native shrubs beneficial to insects and birds. We hope students will participate in the care of these plants, and be on the path to becoming environmental stewards.

GCNH members planted four sunsplash winterberries, three females and a male! The variety was *Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash", which has dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until the hungry birds feast on the berries! The site selected for these plants is known on the Hopkins campus as The Glade, an area near a rain garden, just east of the Malone Science Center.

As they grow and thrive, these shrubs will enhance the Hopkins campus and its mission to inspire and educate the young.

LEAP

LEAP (Leadership, Education & Athletics in Partnership)

Leapforkids.org

31 Jefferson Street

New Haven, CT 06511

Planting Ambassador Susan Anton

As a part of the celebration of its centennial 2024-2025, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including LEAP. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

Eleven years ago, GCNH member and past president Susan Anton created the gardening program at LEAP, which offers summer and after school programs for children. She continues to teach there, and often has the support of fellow-GCNH member, Robin Hochstrasser. Each year about 25 Leap students participate. They acquire horticultural skills such as planting seeds, watering vegetables and flowers, and adding mulch to the soil. They also taste fresh produce! Such hands-on experience cultivates a love of nature and a connection to plants. In 2017 the Bartels award was given to Leap for this program. We hope students will participate in the care of these plants, and be on the path to becoming environmental stewards.

In October 2024, Susan organized some of the Leap children in the gardening program to assist in the installation of six plants on the Leap grounds. Two of the plants were mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah'). These evergreens will grow five or six feet high, and in late spring the pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom! The children also assisted in the planting of two Winterberry Hollies (*Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash"), with dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until the hungry birds feast on the berries! Also two *Clethra anifolia* ("Ruby Spice") were added. These summer flowering shrubs will grow three or four feet high and produce gorgeous deep pink blossoms. We hope students will participate in the care of these plants, and continue on the path to becoming environmental stewards.

PARDEE MORRIS HOUSE  
325 Lighthouse Road  
New Haven, CT 06512  
Contact: Margaret Ann Tocharchewsky

Planting Ambassador: Lisa Totman

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Pardee Morris House, a part of the New Haven Museum. This project honors the Garden Club of New Haven's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The New Haven Museum is a major community asset! It also holds the Garden Club's archives, and our members have spent many hours there researching GCNH's past as well as other New Haven events. The Museum has hosted many flower shows, including the Garden Club of America's Flower show, "Heritage of Flowers" in 1979.

The historic Pardee-Morris house is now part of the New Haven Museum and open for tours. It was built by Amos Morris in 1750, then severely damaged in a fire set by British raiders in 1779. Later the Morris family rebuilt and expanded it. In 1981 GCNH designed a colonial garden for the house, which was planted by members of the Morris Cove Garden club. It is full of herbs and plants that would have been used for medical, household or cooking purposes.

The Laurel is the Connecticut State Flower, so it was appropriate for the grounds of this historic house. At the suggestion of the New Haven Museum staff, GCNH members planted three mountain laurels (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') along the path near the colonial garden. These evergreens will grow five or six feet high, and burst into gorgeous pink-red blooms in late spring. These shrubs will serve as reminders of the positive relationship between the Garden Club and the New Haven Museum.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
860 Howard Avenue  
New Haven, CT

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden Club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Ronald McDonald House. This project honors GCNH's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The Ronald McDonald House offers guest rooms to families whose children are undergoing essential medical treatment at hospitals in Connecticut. It is located in New Haven, very close to Yale-New Haven Hospital. GCNH member, Sandy Taylor and her husband, Ted, were early supporters of this important community asset. When Sandy was the president of the Garden Club, she led the making and delivering of holiday decorations to the Ronald McDonald House.

In October 2024, GCNH members planted three mountain laurel shrubs (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah') in front of the main building. These evergreens will grow five or six feet high. In late spring the pink-red flowers burst into gorgeous bloom! We hope these shrubs will delight the children and their families.

ST THOMAS'S DAY SCHOOL  
830 WHITNEY AVENUE  
NEW HAVEN, CT. 06511

CONTACT: GINA PANZA, 203-776-2123, [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)

PLANTING AMBASSADOR: Pat Sabosik

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including St Thomas's Day School. This project honors the Garden Club of New Haven's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

The GCNH members wanted to reach out to some local high schools and elementary schools to highlight the importance of planting native shrubs beneficial to insects and birds. Students will participate in the care of these plants, and be on the path to becoming environmental stewards.

St. Thomas's Day School is an elementary school on Whitney Avenue across from Edgerton Park.

In September, 2024 students assisted GNCH members in the planting of two winterberry hollies (*Ilex verticillata* "Sunsplash"), one male and one female. Each has dazzling "splashes" of gold, white and green on the leaves. When the red-orange berries emerge in autumn, the plant is a beauty to behold- until hungry birds feast on the berries! Two summer flowering shrubs were also planted: Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia* "Ruby Spice"), with dark pink blossoms, that grows three or four feet high, and two mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* 'Sarah'). This evergreen will grow five or six feet high, and burst into gorgeous pink-red blooms in late spring.

URBAN RESOURCES INITIATIVE AND THE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF HEALING DEDICATED TO  
VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE  
105 Valley St., New Haven, 06515

Contact: Colleen Murphy-Dunning, 203-432-6570, Email: [colleen.murphy-dunning@yale.edu](mailto:colleen.murphy-dunning@yale.edu)

PLANTING AMBASSADOR; Lisa Totman

As a part of the celebration of its centennial, the Garden club of New Haven (GCNH) has planted shrubs on the sites of almost forty civic and community organizations in the area, including the Urban Resources Initiative and the Botanical Garden of Healing. This project honors the Garden Club of New Haven's mission of civic horticultural work, and salutes its long-standing relationship with many civic and community organizations.

Under the umbrella of the Yale School of the Environment Urban Resources Initiative (URI) works with the City of New Haven Parks Department and many community groups, residents and volunteers "to green the Elm City and address environmental inequities." GCNH and URI have a long history of common interests. They first collaborated in 2010 on a grant request to the Garden Club of America to plant, inventory and map the trees URI had planted in the city with the help of high school students. The GCA granted \$10,000 from the Founders Fund to initiate "Mapping of the City's Urban Canopy." That project was deemed so impressive that Zone 2 of the GCA granted an additional \$2,000. Today more than 12,000 trees have been planted by URI, and there is an online inventory of nearly 30,000 street trees.

URI relies on GCNH for care of the swale on Trumbull, and has been helpful to GCNH in its stewardship of the adjacent Phelps Park. Just recently, Colleen Murphy-Dunning, head of URI, moderated a panel discussion "Public Green Spaces: An Urban Imperative" in celebration of the GCNH Centennial.

URI has been a major support for the Botanical Garden of Healing, a small, lovely and serene spot on Valley Street, maintained by many volunteers. Families of victims and others go there to remember the victims and to acknowledge the scourge of gun violence in our communities. Organizations. The Botanical Garden came to the attention of GCNH through URI, and was selected by its members for the 2023 Florence Bradley award. In addition, GCNH is currently documenting the Botanical Garden of Healing for inclusion in the Smithsonian's archival record of gardens. In October, 2024, URI organized several community volunteers to plant four Clethra shrubs donated by GCNH. These Summersweet, *Clethra alnifolia* ("Ruby Spice), will grow three or four feet high and produce gorgeous deep pink blossoms, which attract pollinators. As they grow and thrive, these shrubs will bring summer beauty to the Garden of Healing.