

The Durham Garden Club would like to thank the Coginchaug Valley Educational Foundation for their generous grant that funded our 2023 restoration project of the Atrium Garden in our new Durham Community Center.

In early January, 2023, the Durham Garden Club was given the challenge of restoring the Atrium Garden in our new Community Center. The Garden had not been cared for since the Korn School closed in 2016 and was very much in need of cleaning, replanting and repurposing for the new Community Center.

The Garden Club had the volunteers to do the work and expertise to create a plan but needed funding to pay for the plants and materials needed to actually do the project. A grant application was written and submitted with the plan, the estimated cost of materials and a description of how this project will be an educational resource for our community. Thankfully we were given the funds needed to complete the project and the garden was totally restored and replanted with all native plants.

It was decided to create a pollinator garden that would be a beautiful center piece in the Community Center, and also serve as an educational resource for the community. Those visiting the garden can learn how to provide for and protect our pollinators in their own yards by following the Pollinator Pathway guidelines. By committing to planting gardens with all native plants, eliminating the use of pesticides and decreasing lawn size, these gardens would become safe habitats that would provide food and protection for the pollinators. Collectively, with many gardens planted using these guidelines, it would become a much larger safe pathway for the pollinators.

We are very grateful for the funding received from the Coginchaug Valley Educational Foundation. It allowed us to create a beautiful garden that demonstrates the use of native plants and how gardens can be designed to provide safe havens for our pollinators.

The Atrium Garden is registered with the CT and Durham Pollinator Pathway Projects

<http://www.pollinator-pathway.org>

<http://www.pollinator-pathway.org/durham>