

THE GARDEN CLUB OF HACKENSACK AWARDED \$1000 GRANT

The Garden Club of Hackensack will be enhancing the Hackensack Community Garden and the grounds of the Hackensack Recreation Center, thanks to a grant from Plant America sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The Hackensack Community Garden is located outside the city's greenhouse in Johnson Park on River Street. It is a member of the Garden Club of NJ and is an established 501c3. In October of 2020 the group proposed a project which was chosen as a recipient of the \$1000 grant. Because Hackensack is an increasingly urban environment, the Garden Club wants to expand its vision to enhance the area with more open green space. With the support of the city, including the DPW, the Recreation Department, and the Hackensack Environmental Commission, the Garden Club will complete two projects.

A pollinator-friendly garden will be established in the Community Garden. In addition, three fruit trees will be planted to provide shade to the rest area and to increase the tree population of the city. In addition, several colorful, informative, and decorative signs will be installed along the garden's fence to teach guests about pollinators and pollinator gardens. The enhanced area will be used to provide educational opportunities to school groups and the general public.

The second part of the plan is to beautify the entrance to Hackensack's Recreation Center. The stark entrance is currently surrounded by short shrubs, concrete, asphalt and plain brick walls. The plan is to install a vertical garden frameworks and trellises behind the short shrubs to add height, color, natural texture and fragrance along the brick wall of the building. This will help to make it a more welcoming entrance.

The Garden Club members will be involved in the planning, purchasing, preparation, and planting as well as the initial care and maintenance to ensure the success of the project.

The Garden Club meets once a month, on Zoom, currently, during Covid, and outside when weather is pleasant. Members and gardeners begin planting in mid-March and continue through the Fall. The garden hosts events outside and hopes to offer many opportunities for learning and participating in fun activities. If you have a green thumb or would like to grow one, you can join the Garden Club by contacting: jencafb@gmail.com

If you just want to be a gardener and buy a plot, please contact the Hackensack Recreation Center, 116 Holt Street, tel. # 201-646-8042. See picture below from our end of season celebration in October 2020.

