

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

Demographic info

1. email address jamesmith@gmail.com
2. Project name: **Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies**
3. Location of project: **485 Main Street, Anytown, CT 06000 United States**
4. Amount of CMGA funding requested: **350**
5. Applicant information
 - a. name **James Smith**
 - b. address **32 Hill Rd, Anytown, CT 06000 United States**
 - c. phone **(203) 111-1111**
6. MGA office **Fairfield/Bethel**
7. Year of MG graduation **2023**
8. Have you or the project received CMGA grant funding, and if so, please explain when this occurred.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
9. Applicant MG Status (multiple choice)
 - a. CMGA member - yes / no
 - b. MG active yes / no
 - c. Intern; I have received a verbal approval from my coordinator MG Applicant status: **2023 Intern**
 - d. Coordinator
 - e. Other

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT (maximum 3 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

10. Please give a brief description of the background to this proposed project, including the following points:
 - (a) whether the project is completely new or this is a continuation of an existing project;
 - (b) what led to this specific project proposal;
 - (c) if applicable, the physical size of the project area; and

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

(d) what other groups/organizations/individuals, if any, you're working with on this project.

In 2022, The Garden Club with the support of Parks & Recreation, decided to establish a native plant teaching garden in a popular public park on Main Street. The Club's intention for this garden is that it be a teaching garden – with a focus on introducing garden visitors to native species and explaining the many benefits of native plantings through conversations with The Club's members working in the garden, plant labels, additional educational signage, and a QR code linking to the Club website

The Club has designed the garden layout and developed a native plant list. The garden area was de-sodded in late 2022 and planting will begin in May 2023. The garden is roughly 20' by 20'.

My proposed project is to help the Garden Club in the Native Plant Garden by:

- Helping defray the costs of certain native plants – specifically for the “butterfly section”.
- Assist in planting the garden as part of a team of volunteers that includes Club members, several of whom are Master Gardeners.
- Properly labeling all native plantings in the garden.

I am energized by the many residents (and visitors) of all ages, backgrounds and abilities that take advantage of the existing gardens in the park already maintained by the Club. There are 4 Master Gardeners 3 Club members who have already volunteered to help with the project. I see the value of adding a native plant garden to the park as a way to introduce more gardeners to native plant gardening.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & TASKS (maximum 8 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smithi

11. What is the overall goal of this project? A goal is the outcome you want to achieve.

The overall goal of the Park Native Plant Garden is to expose, educate and encourage the community and visitors to learn about the benefits of planting native species. The goal of my project is to help defray the cost of purchasing native host plants for butterflies (a focus for part of the garden), and then to help plant and properly label all native plantings in the garden. Specific to my project, garden visitors will be exposed to native species that attract and support butterflies.

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

12. Please list each specific objective that will lead to the goal. An objective is a measurable, specific action to take to achieve the goal.

My project objectives are to:

- 1) Populate the garden with appropriate native species (that attract and support butterflies),
- 2) Ensure all plantings are properly labeled to assist with self-guided community education,
- 3) Provide a means - through a QR code - for the community to easily link to more detailed information about the plants and/or seek expert advice from the RGC website.

13. What concrete steps will you take to reach each objective?

The steps for my project are as follows:

- 1) Select and purchase appropriate native host species (for the butterfly section) from the plant list already developed by the Club. Examples include the following native perennials: *Antennaria plantaginifolia* (plantain-leaved pussy toes), *Aquilegia canadensis*, (eastern red columbine), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Chelone lyonii* (pink turtlehead), *Cimicifuga racemosa* (black cohosh), *Lupinus perennis* (wild lupin) and *Monarda didyma* (bee balm).
- 2) Assist in planting these natives in the designated locations for best adaptation.
- 3) Create individual plant labels and place them.
- 4) Install a bronze plaque (already purchased) equipped with a QR code that links to the Club website where additional native plant information will be available.

POPULATION(S) & ACCESSIBILITY (maximum 6 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

14. Who is the intended audience for the proposed project?

The intended audience for the Park Native Garden (and my project within this broader scope) is residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, as well as residents of nearby towns and other visitors to the Park. Through this project I hope to help the Club encourage an interest in gardening, and specifically in learning about and planting native species in their gardens, including those which attract and support butterflies.

15. How will you promote the project and its benefits to the intended audience?

The Park is the site of countless events including concerts, parties, and town events. The Gardens are a visible feature within the Park, and are well known throughout the

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

community, serving as a popular destination for rest and relaxation, garden enjoyment and beauty. The Native Plant Garden will be accessible year-round to local residents and visitors. The planting of the garden will be promoted in local news outlets and social media. We also plan to promote the garden to local school groups as a learning tool and, hopefully, some students may want to volunteer to help. My project, the butterfly section, will be an integrated part of Gardens.

COMMUNITY IMPACT (maximum 6 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smithi

16. Describe how this proposed project will benefit the community or population for which it is intended. Please be as specific and concrete as you can be.

The new Native Plant Garden will provide an opportunity for many residents and visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to learn about native plants and their benefits, encouraging them to consider native species in their own gardens. Within this broader scope, my project will bring specific focus to native host plants for butterflies.

The current Park Gardens are frequented by many residents and visitors during all seasons of the year, providing an opportunity for them to learn about the various plantings, as well as to learn from Club members, some of whom are Master Gardeners, that plant and maintain the various gardens.

17. Describe how the project contributes to the CMGA mission to promote horticultural knowledge and/or enhance the community it serves through gardening-based activities.

This project promotes horticultural knowledge by giving garden visitors the opportunity to:

- experience a native plant garden firsthand (including those that specifically attract and support butterflies),
- learn from local experts working in the native plant garden,
- leverage extensive plant labeling, signage, and the Club website to enhance their knowledge through self-study.

This project will enhance the community by providing those who visit with a wonderful space to relax and enjoy the plantings, while encouraging them to further explore the benefits of gardening and native gardening, in particular.

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

PROJECT CONTINUATION (maximum 13 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

18. Will this proposed project be continued in the future?

- a. Yes, as part of a larger project
- b. Yes, as a new project that we plan to continue
- c. Unsure

Yes, as part of a larger project

19. If unsure, what is the reason?

N/A

20. Who will be responsible for managing long-term care of the project, and what activities do you anticipate will be needed for long-term care?

The Club will continue to maintain and enhance this native garden. My project will be part of the fourth garden that The Garden Club maintains in the Park. The gardens are one of the club's primary priorities and all club members work regularly in the gardens for the enjoyment of the public. There is already an enthusiastic team of Club volunteers, including Master Gardeners, who will care for the native plant garden going forward. I will also work in the garden. This will entail weeding, watering, and planting more as needed.

21. What funding and/or material resources for long-term care are needed and how might they be secured?

Ongoing, long-term funding for the garden will be included in the Garden Club budget. Additional funding may be needed for additional plants, soil amendments and mulch.

22. What people resources for long-term care are needed and how might they be secured?

Club members will care for the garden as they have for the other gardens that have been in their care for over 40 years (since 1982).

MASTER GARDENERS & OTHER VOLUNTEERS (maximum 7 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

23. How many MGs / MG interns /other volunteers will you aim to include in this project? *

CMGA Grant Applications 2024

At least three Master Gardeners from the Garden Club have already volunteered to work on this project as well as me, a Master Gardener intern. We'll aim to include 6-8 other volunteers and MG interns, as needed.

24. How do you plan to recruit MGs, MG interns and volunteers for this project?

Club members have already signed up to help with the overall project. The Club also has a process in place to recruit volunteers from the community, if needed, who are interested in gardening. I will make other MG interns aware of the project. We will attend the outreach fair for interns and speak at the Club meeting to recruit new members.

25. How will working on this project benefit MGs, MG interns, and other volunteers?

Particularly given the work the Club has already done to design and develop a plant list for the garden, Master Gardeners and Interns working side-by-side with these Club garden leaders, some of whom are also MGs, will further their knowledge of how to design a native plant garden and about suitable species to plant in this area of Connecticut. They will also learn how to maintain native plantings for the long run.

BUDGET (maximum 4 points)

Native Plants that Attract and Support Butterflies

James Smith

26. Please list all expenses anticipated for this project, sources of potential funding, and donations (if applicable), including CMGA and other sources.

My project - the native host species for butterflies section of the garden - is unfunded and is the focus of this grant request. The plant material (as described earlier) will be approximately \$350 in cost. (If the cost should exceed this amount, I will find other sources of funding for any shortfall, which could include additional funding from the Club and possibly a fundraiser. The rest of this garden project has been funded through other sources.