

Memorandum

Date: July 31, 2023

To: ANJEC

From: Thomas Newman, Chair, Pequannock Environmental Commission

RE: Foothills Park 2022 Environmental Stewardship Grant for Pollinator Garden,
Deliverable: Progress Update #6 – FINAL REPORT

Introduction

After our prior (May 15) progress report, the Pequannock Environmental Commission (PEC) has completed its work to plan, prepare and plant well over 300 individual native plants at a new pollinator garden in Foothills Park. In all, PEC held three major public events to prepare and plant subjects in the garden, installed two benches and a kiosk with a changeable display currently showing a plantings map, a table with names and characteristics of planted species, and educational material about pollination and its importance. PEC looks forward to holding public events at this new venue to help showcase native plants and the animals they support and to educate residents about environmentally beneficial actions they can take at home.

Major Developments

May 20 Public Planting Day: a total of 20 volunteers, including representatives from the Pequannock Community Garden, Pequannock High School FBLA, Suburban Woman's Club, and staff from the PEC. If not for the heavy rain, we might have had a stronger turnout, but we succeeded in planting over 278 individual subjects.

May 30: PEC staff installed a rudimentary irrigation system (buried 200 ft of hose to bring water to the garden site) and planted roughly 20 more individual subjects. mostly common milkweed.

May 31: PEC staff installed markers every 10 ft around the garden perimeter as a way to better identify and document planting locations.

June 2: PEC staff installed a matching, second TREX bench overlooking the Pollinator Garden.

June 10: PEC staff completed assembly of a Plexiglas-protected display frame for the kiosk, and installed an initial set of posters in the frame. The posters provide introductory educational material about pollination and its importance, as well as an initial map of the pollinator garden and what is planted where, and a table showing the names and characteristics of the planted subjects, including what types of pollinators each attracts. Future versions of posters will include QR codes leading to more information for interested parties.

Photographs



Figure 1a and 1b: Tent Set-Up for Planting Day (May 20, 2023)

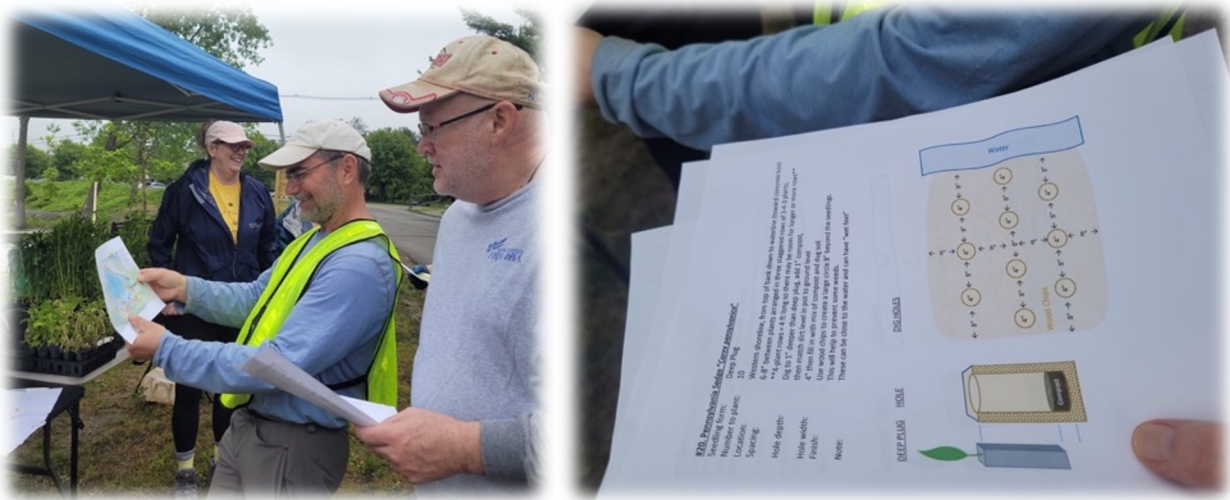


Figure 2a and 2b: Planting-Day Instruction Handouts (May 20, 2023)



Figure 3a and 3b: Planting-Day Volunteers at Work (May 20, 2023)



Figure 4a and 4b: Kiosk Road-Side Signage, Benches and Bench-Side Signage



Figure 5a, b, c: First-Year Pollinator-Garden Blooms in June 2023