

1. New Project: No

2. Beginning date: 2019 Completion date: ongoing.

3. Summary and objectives of project.

This is a project initiated by the Coastal Gardeners Club in 2019. At that time the club approached the Delaware Seashore State Parks and offered to create a permanent garden around the entry booth at Towers Beach, located at 3864 Coastal Highway, Rehoboth Beach, DE. The goal was to design and install a permanent landscape project to foster appreciation of gardening, enhance the natural beauty of the park, and to promote the appeal of native plants as visitors enter the facility. At that time, a \$350 grant was provided by Delaware State Parks to supplement the club's cost to create the garden. Since the project began in 2019, our club has continued to maintain it, performing necessary gardening tasks throughout the growing season. Sandy shared part of a very positive letter from the new park superintendent with regards to our club's continued work at the Towers Beach garden. Lindsey B. Goebel, Park Superintendent IV, Delaware Seashore State Park wrote in part, "The area around Towers booth looks beautiful! I can't wait to see all the flowers in bloom and the pollinators, it will be a true delight."

4. Details regarding the involvement of club members and/or other organizations.

The club's involvement for the 2024 season began on Tuesday, 5/14. A group of five club members cleaned up the beds at the guard booth, pruning and removing dead foliage and weeds. Planting day took place on Wednesday, May 22. At that time, seven members added some new annuals to the garden for additional color. The new superintendent of the park stopped by to observe our efforts, and discuss with our club president the possibility of storing our watering materials on site.

Throughout the growing season, members take turns tending to the garden. This involves pruning and deadheading as needed as well as watering. In 2024, we received permission from the park to situate a storage tub near the water pump in which to store the 6 five-gallon buckets and a hose which we use for watering. Previously, this equipment had to be transferred from one club member to the next for a week of watering duty. The watering is still done by filling up the buckets at the pump near the bath house at one end of the parking lot, driving the buckets to the entrance of the park about ¼ mile away where the garden is located, and using smaller containers to water each plant in the plot. The club maintains an online calendar for members to sign up for these duties, to ensure continued maintenance throughout the spring and summer. In the fall the club performs some cleanup and leaves the native plants as habitat for insects, birds, and other creatures over the winter. The seeds of some of the plants also provide food for some birds.

5. Project expenses and means of funding

Coastal Gardeners purchase the plants and supplies for this garden, and is then reimbursed by the State Park. In 2024, the club spent \$216.90 for plants, with the invoice then sent to the State Park for reimbursement. The club spent \$94.99 of its own funds in 2024 for the storage bin and lock for the watering equipment.

6. State continuing involvement of the club, including any follow-up or maintenance.

Coastal Gardeners continues to maintain the garden with Spring and Fall cleanups, regular tending and watering throughout the Spring and Summer, selecting and replenishing with new plants as needed.



(Above) Members take part in Spring cleanup of the Towers Beach garden.



(Above) Members add and water new plants.



(left) Coastal Gardeners at work on the Towers Beach project.



(Above) Towers Beach garden in July



(Above) Towers Beach garden in late September