



Keep Stamford Beautiful, Inc.
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Keep Stamford Beautiful, Inc.

A program of the City of Stamford
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Waste In Place

On Saturday, March 2, Keep Stamford Beautiful conducted our first "Waste In Place" workshop.

Rosemary Cox, Chair of KSB's Education Committee, familiarized the group of eleven participants with a curriculum of 33 interdisciplinary lessons that create an awareness of and develop responsible attitudes toward litter prevention and waste management.



Lessons and activities included topics such as litter prevention, waste management, waste reduction, recycling/composting, waste energy/landfill and enrichment.



DOWN -TO- EARTH

ISSUE 12

SPRING 2002

The Great American Cleanup 2002



On Saturday, April 27, bright, sunny skies greeted more than 300 volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and joined Keep Stamford Beautiful for the Great American Cleanup 2002.

Keep Stamford Beautiful hosted cleanups in Glenbrook, Springdale, Waterside, the West Side, and South End neighborhoods. More than 30,000 pounds of litter and debris were removed from public areas of the city, and four new garden areas were installed.

At the historic Northfield Cemetery at North and Franklin Streets, volunteers bagged litter and cut underbrush from the perimeter of the cemetery. The garden project at the Glenbrook Metro North railway station was dedicated as a memorial to Sean Rooney, a Glenbrook resident who perished at the World Trade Center on September 11.

The volunteer workforce came from the Springdale Neighborhood Association, the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association, Waterside Coalition, Mutual Housing, West Side United Neighbors, Lathon Wider Community Center, GE Capital, Stamford Board of Realtors, General Cologne RE, Cub Scouts, and students from Westhill High School. Keep Stamford Beautiful is very grateful for the help of the Stamford Office of Operations in disposal of all the collected debris.

Keep Stamford Beautiful thanks the following corporations for being "Partners" in the Great American Cleanup: GE Capital, General Cologne RE, Heyman Properties, Newberry Common, Pitney Bowes, Stamford Board of Realtors, Stamford Town Center, USB Warburg, Union State Bank, and W & M Properties.



Springdale



Glenbrook



West Side



Stillwater Avenue & Broad Street



Idlewood & Little Hill Drive



Northfield Cemetery



Waterside



South End



Dann & High Clear Drive

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Springtime in Stamford

Over the past two years, Keep Stamford Beautiful as planted more than 24,000 daffodil bulbs throughout the city. Keep Stamford Beautiful provided the bulbs. Volunteers from the neighborhoods and corporations planted them. Kudos to all the volunteers – you did a great job!



Island Beautification

KSB was one of the recipients of Mayor Malloy's Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program this year.

Through this grant, KSB was able to purchase three cast stone planters, and install them on the traffic island at the intersection of Hope Street and Glenbrook Road.



t's "Beautification Day" in Stamford, and the Kick-Off for "Stamford In Bloom"!

On Saturday, June 1, volunteers from the South End, West de, Springdale, Glenbrook, and Belltown will be involved in amford's largest, one day, neighborhood beautification oject.

Sponsored by Keep Stamford Beautiful, volunteers ill be planting more than 2,000 annuals in planters, ee wells, and parks. "Beautification Day" promotes the eervation and enhancement of the natural beauty of e neighborhoods, and instills pride in their residents.



The activities on June 1 will be used as the platform to launch this year's "Stamford In Bloom" annual garden competition.

"Stamford In Bloom" is a beautification project, and is open to all Stamford residents.

This campaign encourages residents to enhance their properties by planting gardens in front of their homes. Entry forms will be available at the Stamford Advocate, at local nurseries and garden centers, or by calling the Keep Stamford Beautiful office at 358-8268.

In the Garden

Growing Annual Flowers

Annual flowers can be a prime source of color to accent and enliven a home's landscape. While flowering trees and shrubs provide short bursts of color, most annuals begin blooming within a month of planting and flower until frost. The wide range of colors, sizes and species adapted to either sun or shade makes it possible to plant annual flowers almost anywhere. Annuals are perfect for beds, borders, rock gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets or as temporary ground covers and fillers.

Annuals are non-woody plants that complete their life cycle in one season, ending with seed production. Confusion can arise when an annual plant reseeds itself and appears to have a perennial habit.

Annual flowers can play an important role in a well-designed landscape. Compared to most perennial landscape plants, annuals require higher levels of both maintenance and water, so plant annual beds in easily-accessible areas and near water sources. Concentrate annuals in beds with other annuals or plants with similar water requirements. Planting annuals randomly throughout the landscape not only increases maintenance, but also lessens the plants' aesthetic impact.

Although annual flowers and plants bring a variety of interesting textures and forms to the landscape, they are most notable for the color they provide. Plant simple mixtures of color. Color themes using related colors, such as red, orange and yellow (warm colors) or green, blue and purple (cool colors) work well. Warm-colored flowers bring excitement into the landscape and tend to appear close to the viewer, making the space in which they are planted feel smaller. Cool-colored flowers, however, appear more distant, creating a greater sense of garden space. Cool colors also tend to relax and soothe viewers.

Using shades of one color (including white) is also a popular and attractive theme. Another pleasing effect comes from using complementary colors – those colors found directly opposite each other on a color wheel – such as orange and blue or purple and yellow. These combinations form high color contrasts and create a lot of excitement and interest in the landscape.



Always be aware of surrounding or backdrop colors to achieve a coordinated overall design. The best way to set off annual flower colors and textures is to provide a simple backdrop of green vegetation.

Annuals are an excellent way to draw attention to building and home entrances, walkways and outdoor living spaces and to provide homeowners and visitors with pleasing "up-close" visual and fragrant experiences. Again, it is important to be selective in placing annuals so their ability to draw attention is not diluted.

Plant height is another important design consideration. Typically, a flower border has the tallest plants in the back, medium height plants in the middle and short plants in the front. An island planting places the tallest plants in the middle of the bed, surrounded by plants of decreasing heights.

Before planting, the physical characteristics of the site must be evaluated. Consider the site's soil type, fertility, drainage and its exposure to sun and wind. Compare site characteristics with specific plant requirements. An annual plant adapted to site conditions grows and flowers more vigorously and has fewer pest problems. Some plants intolerant of heat and sun may perform adequately when planted in part shade.

Annual flowers offer flexibility in landscape design. Any planting can be changed each growing season, creating an entirely new design. As a part of their quick change potential, annuals can be used as a temporary solution in a problem site.

www.drought.state.ct.us

The State of Connecticut has launched a web site to inform residents of drought conditions and to provide tips on conserving water. The site www.drought.state.ct.us also gives weekly weather forecasts and updated reports on forest fire dangers and local water restrictions.

Mowing Lawns

Americans mow 31 million acres of lawn every year. It takes 300 million gallons of gas and 1 billion hours to complete the chore. \$17.4 billion will be spent on everything from pesticides (70 million pounds) to lawn tractors.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat (But Don't Pollute the Water!)

One of the most serious hazards that pollutes lakes, rivers and oceans is the careless disposal of plastic debris: plastic bags, six-pack rings, fishing line and food wrappings. Many people don't realize how hazardous this trash can be. Here are five steps that you can take to keep plastics out of the water:

- *On your boat, stow plastic trash and old fishing gear for proper disposal on land. Secure trash bags to a fixture on the boat and make sure all trash finds its way there. Dispose of trash at the dock.*
- *Use reusable items such as washable dinnerware to minimize the amount of plastic waste that you generate.*
- *Dispose of old fishing line properly. Lost line can be lethal to fish, sea turtles, birds and other marine animals.*
- *Clean up after picnics and beach outings. Dispose of all waste in trash receptacles to prevent debris, especially plastics, from blowing into the water from the beach.*
- *Cut the loops of plastic six-pack rings before disposing of them to ensure that they will not entangle an animal.*