

Final Report – **2022 GCFM Civic Development Grant** Title: **Acton Town Hall Oval Garden**

Project Leaders: **Acton Garden Club, Acton, MA** Club President: **Eileen Ryan**

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In honor of the Club's 90th Anniversary, Acton Garden Club revitalized the landscaping they have maintained in front of Town Hall, 472 Main Street, Acton, MA, since 1984. After May 2023 Town Meeting, we reviewed the Oval Garden Plan with Town Manager John Mangiaratti and Select Board member Dean Charter, [AGC Oval Project Poster.pdf](#). We set the installation date for September 2023. Over the summer, we sought approval for the project from the Historic District Commission and submitted a donation acceptance letter for the \$2,000 estimated value of the project to the Town to get the Select Board's approval. In late August, we ordered the tree and shrubs from Weston Nursery. Due to inventory availability, we needed to increase the sizes of the tree and shrubs, raising our plant material cost. We applied for an NGC, Inc. Plant America Community Project Grant for \$1,087 on October 11 after recalculating our budget. Acton experienced a microburst weather event in September, which delayed the start of the project due to extensive storm damage and the massive Town clean up required. We kept the tree and shrubs watered and awaited the go-ahead from the Town Manager. In the meantime, Arborist Dean Charter brought a chainsaw on September 29 to level the garden and we hauled away the debris. The sitework for the project commenced in late October with excavation of the garden soil by a Town employee with a bobcat. On November 7, a Town employee replaced the topsoil and leveled the area. The shrubs were installed by volunteers on Nov. 16, the tree installed with volunteer heavy equipment on Nov. 18, the landscape fabric laid on Nov. 19, and landscape fabric mulched on Nov. 20. Final approval by the Historic District Commission was contingent upon a review of a mock-up of the fountain installation, which was done on November 21. Botanical labels and the 2024 anniversary plaque to be mounted on a boulder are now being ordered. The fountain will be installed in late April 2024. There is a dedication planned for the project on May 1, 2024, with state and local government representatives invited.

Budget:

Expenses

Plants: 16 x various sizes	\$1,487
Soil amendments/mulch	\$ 440
Other purchases:	\$1,150
Bronze Plaque (\$550)	
Botanical Labels (\$300)	
Soaker Hoses (\$150)	
Landscape Fabric (\$150)	
Total Expenses	\$2,977

Income

GCFM Civic Development Grant	\$ 750
Acton Garden Club Project Funding	\$ 500
NGC Plant America Community Project Grant	\$1,087
Approximate value of donated supplies/products	\$ 340
Other donations: O'Neils donating Fiske-style fountain; AGC Botanical Labeling project: \$300 for 6 labels.	\$ 300
Total Income	\$2,977



Publicity posted 2/8/2024: <https://www.actonexchange.org/it-takes-a-village-revitalization-of-the-oval-garden/>