

GCV Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Ballot 2018

Port Republic Riverside Graveyard

Submitted by

The Spotswood Garden Club

The once abandoned Riverside Graveyard lies within the sleepy village of Port Republic. The Spotswood Garden Club wishes to facilitate the community's efforts to restore this historic treasure and create an inviting public green space while enhancing its use as an educational site, through artifact repairs and ecological rehabilitation. The riverside cleared of invasive overgrowth and planted for native riparian conservation would allow river access and views. Plantings will primarily serve two purposes: conservation and beautification. Plantings will stabilize the graveyard grounds as they meet with the riverbanks and aesthetically provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. A peaceful respite will emerge on what was once a bustling street of river industry. This restoration will amplify the site's usefulness as an educational resource. Port Republic is the destination for history-focused tour groups from elementary to collegiate, Smithsonian Institutes, international tours and genealogists. Geology and archeology departments also utilize the graveyard. The buried represent occupations such as boatman, blacksmith, saddler, tanner and cooper between 1767 and 1899. The Riverside Project is a perfect blend of preservation, conservation, beautification and education, and would provide a tremendous gift for the present and future.

Paw Path Pollinator Garden at the Smith River Sports Complex

Submitted by

The Martinsville Garden Club and the Garden Study Club of Martinsville

The Martinsville Garden Club and The Garden Study Club's Smith River Paw Path Pollinator Garden, now in its second phase, has already attracted community involvement. Magna Vista High School students created insect "hotels" to welcome pollinators. The hotels have been placed along the Paw Path, with a sign explaining their role in the path's rich ecosystem. Some 75 Magna Vista students, working in groups, created webpages with podcasts about native plants planted along the trail. The clubs chose one of the student formats as the standard to be used on its website being created to bring awareness to the pollinator garden and trail. The clubs purchased the domain name "PawPath.org." Students also created QR codes to be placed on each plant sign so visitors, using smart phones and devices, can access additional information about plants that pique their interest. The next phase entails creation of elementary-level educational materials based on science SOLs for local school systems. The garden and trail offer visitors an opportunity to learn about bees, butterflies and other pollinators, as well as the plants on which they survive and thrive. The hope is to inspire children and adults to help sustain the pollinators that sustain us all.

GCV Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award Ballot 2018 cont

The Fred W. Beazley Outdoor Classroom at Paradise Creek Nature Park Submitted by The Elizabeth River Garden Club

An outdoor classroom in the middle of a nature park is the perfect spot for children to learn about conservation. That is the intent at the Paradise Creek Nature Park, created by the Elizabeth River Project, a non-profit whose efforts to restore the Elizabeth River have been hugely successful.

An outdoor extension to the newly completed River Academy will include a number of teaching zones: a large space with picnic table seating for up to 30 students, a smaller area with tree stump seating, a water-wise garden, sensory garden and container garden. Native plants and trees will be used to create shade and an intimate space for learning. In this setting, children may learn about the watershed, stewardship and our impact on the environment.

The ERP educator, urban park ranger and public school teachers will use this space to inspire young students to become future conservationists. With over 15,000 visitors each year, including 6,000 inner-city youths, the park's reclaimed landscape has become a catalyst for community action.

The Elizabeth River Garden Club will serve as project advisor with qualified members donating professional landscape design and selection of plants. For further information: www.paradisecreek.elizabethriver.org and www.ergardenclub.org, Conservation tab.