

## History of SSLDL Library Gardens

The Gardens were started in 1998 in the back of the library by the Friends of the Library. At first the Library Board wanted to keep the front yard more formal but after seeing what the Friends volunteers had done in the back, the Board agreed in 2002 that the Friends could plant the front as well.

The original design for the courtyard was done by Dick Hausrath, president of the Friends at the time. The raised bed follows the compass design of the window above.

Millie Lintner directed the backyard planting. Most of the original plants were donated by community members.

There are memorials to both Millie and Dick in the gardens.

The stone wall and gate in the back were designed and built by Dennis Crossley, Friends Treasurer at the time.

In 2008 an expansion of the building eliminated some gardens and added others, especially in the front flag pole area and around the front entrance. Ann Pylman designed the shrub area of the Flag Pole garden. The Flag Pole Gardens also include memorial stones for the military services.

The gardens continue to be a project of the Friends of the library. Expenses such as plants, mulch, tools, bulbs etc are reimbursed by the Friends. 30 garden volunteers each maintain a garden bed. Of the 30, 14 are also members of Four Seasons Garden Club.

In 2013 the gardens were designated a National Wildlife Habitat.

In 2015 gardeners received a Presidential Service Award from President Obama.

The gardens contain a rain barrel, many bird houses, a butterfly house, a 3 part compost bin, and several birdbaths. A shed houses shovels, wheelbarrows and tools.

There are memorials for 2 Girl Scout Leaders, and Peg Fogelsonger (one of the early gardeners and Friends Board Member). Both of these memorials are in the front gardens to the south of the main entrance. Behind the library there is a memorial pathway and bench around the maple tree in Memory of Anna DePirro, a lovely young woman lost early to Cystic Fibrosis.

In the back gardens there are at least 2 trees donated by various clubs including a Ginko tree donated by Four Seasons Garden Club. The gardens contain Eagle Boy Scout projects. The storybook trail started as an Eagle Scout project and has been enriched. The storybook trail allows kids to actively participate while reading the story. Other Eagle Scout projects include the compost bins, fenced vegetable garden, storytime benches and paving stones leading to the woodland trail. The Methodist Church supplied volunteers to build the stone raised bed in the backyard grassy area.

The garden along the back of the children's library area has evolved based on the desires of the children's librarian and it's use as a training garden for Boy Scouts. It was a pizza garden, Peter Rabbit garden, butterfly garden and it grew vegetables and flowers required for the Gardening merit badge.

More benches and chairs have been added over the year to encourage the patrons to use the space.