

Common Wealth Award 2020

The Common Wealth Award committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Common Wealth Award, The Virginia Beach Garden Club and The Mill Mountain Garden Club. We look forward to seeing how these exciting, club-driven community projects progress with the help of this award

First Place: Living Green Wall at Brock Environmental Center's Classroom Annex

Submitted by the Virginia Beach Garden Club

The Virginia Beach Garden Club will provide support for a “green wall” to be located in the Virginia Beach Public School’s Classroom Annex affiliated with the Brock Environmental Center. Here local high school students will participate in a program focusing on environmental science, green building practices, and sustainable approaches to real world issues. Green walls include greenery, a growing medium and a water delivery system. The walls provide indoor environmental health benefits combatting attention fatigue by connecting students to “outdoor nature” within the indoor environment. Additionally, green walls reduce energy costs. The extra layer of air between the plants and the wall absorbs acoustic energy and reduces noise. The green wall is an example of a sustainability practice that can be modeled in future homes and workplaces.

Second Place: Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden: The Next Fifty Years and Beyond Enhancing the Visitor Experience Through Educational Signage

Submitted by Mill Mountain Garden Club

High atop Mill Mountain in Roanoke’s most visited urban park is the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. As the primary caretakers, Mill Mountain Garden Club members tend this beloved, iconic 2.5-acre garden weekly. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the garden, the club launched their largest and most ambitious fundraising campaign contributing to an overall restoration of the garden. The Common Wealth Award will provide funds for enhancing the educational experience of the visitor in the garden while highlighting the vital mission of conservation. Along the “Discovery Trail” path four permanent, colorful and informative signs will showcase and identify Virginia native plants, wildflowers, trees, insects, and pollinators. Signage will also emphasize the importance of planting natives in the garden and feature other takeaways on the nexus of nature, climate science, and health.

GCV clubs are asked to consider submitting a proposal or resubmitting a proposal if not chosen this year. The application is on the [GCV website](#) and the deadline for the 2021 Common Wealth Award submission is March 1, 2021.

Gifts may be made to the **Common Wealth Award Fund** to help assure a continuation of these supportive grants for extraordinary club projects and partnerships that serve to further the conservation, preservation, and restoration ideals intrinsic to our GCV.