

Ayr Hill Garden Club

The Ayr Hill Garden Club, founded in 1929, is the oldest garden club in the national capital area. We maintain four other gardens around Vienna: the *Children's Discovery Garden* (at the red caboose along the W&OD Trail), the *Historic Herb Garden* (behind the Little Library on the grounds of the Freeman Store), the *Salsbury Spring Native Plant Garden* (at Lawyers Road and Windover Avenue), and the *Pollinator Garden* (on the grounds of Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Chain Bridge Rd.).

We hold a general membership meeting on the fourth Monday of the month, September through June, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna 22181. At this time, we feature programs on natural resources, native plants, floral and landscape design, environmental studies, historical preservation, wildlife conservation. We welcome the public to join us for these programs, which begin at 12:45 pm.

For more information, please visit our website: www.ayrhillgardenclub.org.

Keys to Success

What does it take for a garden to succeed for decades? Here are some strategies that have worked well.

- ***Amending the soil.*** Although the garden was planted on top of a gravel train bed, many years of adding leaf mulch has done wonders.
- ***Designing for four-season interest.*** Trees and shrubs provide structure and most of the winter interest. Bulbs welcome the spring. Perennials and annuals provide changing interest from spring through fall.
- ***Providing visual interest for drivers, bikers, and walkers.*** Bold and interesting plantings catch the eye of all who pass by. Seating allows visitors to relax and contemplate the beauty of nature.
- ***Using native plantings.*** These plants provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other wildlife. They are also easiest to maintain. Ayr Hill Garden Club encourages the use of native plants in the community.

How the Garden is Funded

Ayr Hill Garden Club's fundraisers, such as The Plant Sale, the Bulb Sale, and the sale of our note cards pay most of the costs.



History of the Garden

When the Town of Vienna invited local organizations to enhance the community by each adopting “a beauty spot” to look after, Ayr Hill Garden Club chose a tired-out location at the intersection of the W&OD Trail and Maple Avenue to start a garden. We have been tending this small haven in the middle of Vienna ever since 1981.

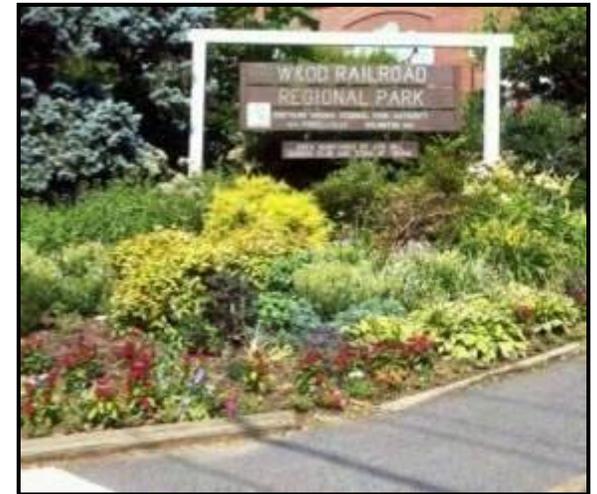
In 1984, AHGC expanded our efforts by enlarging the garden to 1950 square feet. Whole Foods came to town and installed a garden behind ours in 2000, which the store maintained until 2003. At that time, AHGC took over the store’s project, increasing the area of our Bike Trail Garden to 5,250 square feet.

In 2006, the Club undertook a major project to redesign the area, integrating and restoring its plantings. In 2007, it devoted a specific section for showcasing native plants.



W&OD Trail Garden

www.ayrhillgardenclub.org



The Ayr Hill Garden Club has maintained this garden since 1981. Also known as the Bike Trail Garden, it is located on the trail at Maple Avenue in Vienna, Virginia.