

Lee Wick Dennison | 1952-2012

Lee Wick Dennison, Town of Chevy Chase resident and volunteer, was a director at the National Endowment of the Arts, trustee at Interlochen Center for the Arts, supporter of the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail. She was also an avid gardener and walker.

For Lee, the arts and nature fused to enrich body and mind and create vibrant communities. Reflecting this belief, she left a generous bequest to the Town for the beautification of its public space.

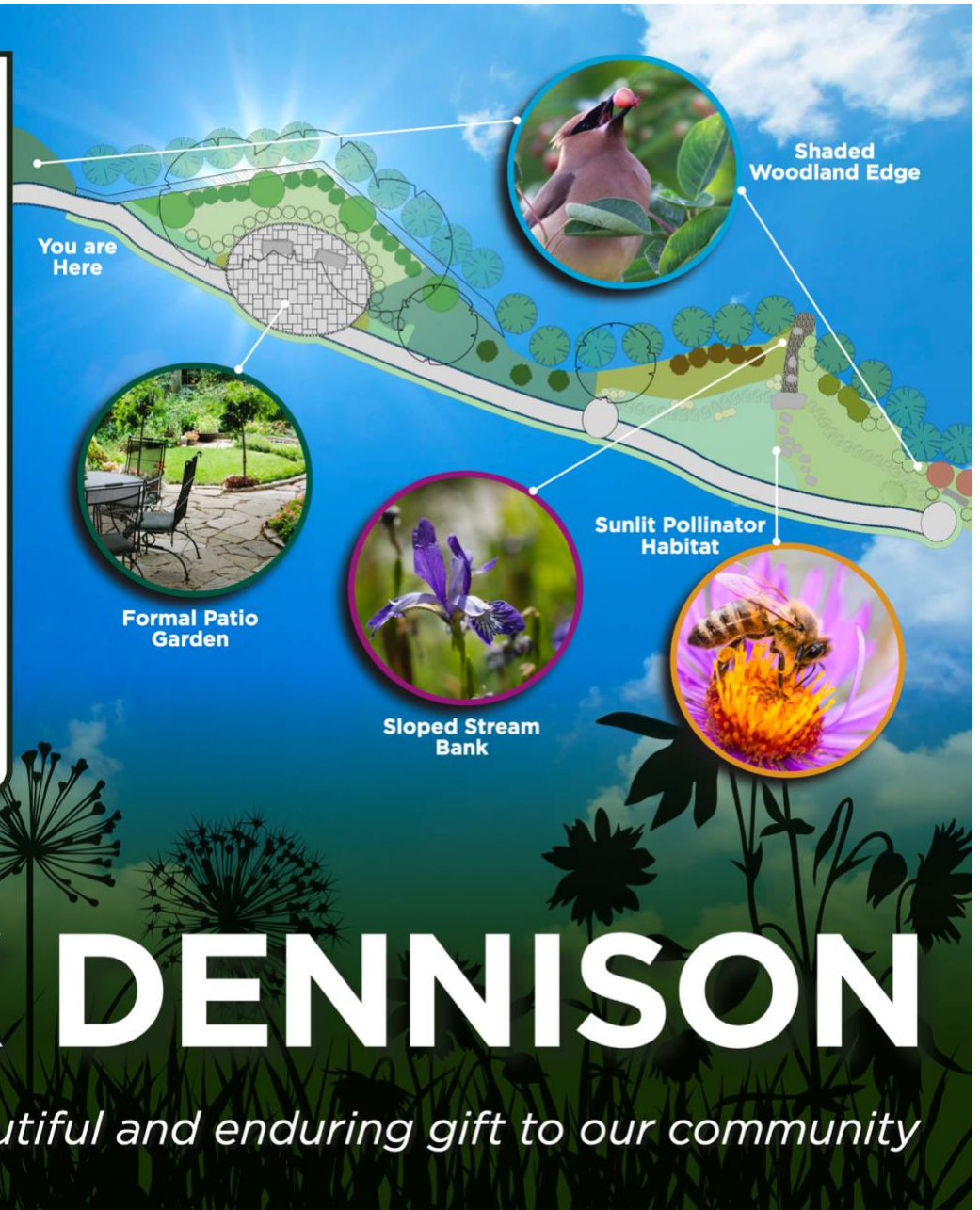
To honor Lee's legacy, in 2018 the Town created this native plant garden using ecological techniques to promote a healthy environment and human wellness. The Lee Wick Dennison Garden was formally dedicated in the spring of 2020.

As you walk through the garden, you will find four "rooms" representing varied local planting conditions:

- Formal Patio Garden
- Sunlit Pollinator Habitat
- Shaded Woodland Edge
- Sloped Stream Bank

Each room features native plants adapted to specific conditions - from sun to shade and wet to dry - that greatly reduce maintenance needs.

For more information about the design, planting and care of native gardens, click on the QR Code using your smartphone or visit LeeDennisonGarden.com



LEE WICK DENNISON GARDEN

A beautiful and enduring gift to our community

SHADED WOODLAND EDGE



Shady yard? Native woodland shrubs, wildflowers and ferns thrive in shade, providing color, texture, and wildlife food and habitat.

Lose the lawn! One sixth of Maryland is covered in turf, which requires frequent mowing and leaf clearance. Gas-powered landscaping equipment is 5 to 15 times more pollutive than passenger cars. Lawns are often treated with chemicals that wash into streams, and turf doesn't absorb much storm water. It also doesn't tolerate much shade. Consider replacing your lawn with native alternatives, such as sedges.

PLANT NOTES: *Oak sedge*, a native woodland plant with deeper roots than turf, doesn't need mowing, fertilizer or herbicides. Serviceberries and Chokeberries are edible by both humans and birds. *Christmas fern* tolerates dry shade and is also evergreen.



LEE DENNISON
GARDEN

FORMAL PATIO GARDEN

Impermeable surfaces in a typical suburban home—roofs, driveways, and patios—generate 2,000 gallons of runoff from a one-inch storm. Permeable patios with unmortared joints that drain into a gravel-filled pit, allow water to seep back into the ground. This reduces run-off into our streams and replenishes the water table. Driveways and walkways can also be made permeable.

PLANT NOTES: Do you prefer a formal look? Native doesn't need to mean naturalistic. This room showcases native substitutes for exotic species typically found in formal landscapes. Instead of Big Leaf Hydrangea, Boxwood and Pachysandra, consider *Smooth Hydrangea*, *Inkberry Holly* and *Allegheny Spurge*. These native plants provide food and habitat for birds in addition to formal structure and year-round beauty.



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SUNLIT POLLINATOR HABITAT



'Life as we know it depends on plants' - E.O. Wilson

Angiosperms—grasses, perennials, shrubs and most trees—are the chief food source for birds, mammals and humans. They also provide most of our medicine, fabrics and timber.

Ninety percent of angiosperms are pollinated by insects, and our insect population is in serious decline. Globally, insect populations have fallen by almost half, and one quarter of bumblebee species are close to extinction. We also have 1.5 BILLION fewer birds than we had 40 years ago!

PLANT NOTES: Rebuild pollinator habitat with flowers that bloom from March through November. Plants with the highest pollinator value include fall-blooming Asters and Goldenrods. Letting leaves decay in your garden provides winter habitat and also replenishes the soil.



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SLOPED STREAM BANK



Hard surfaces worsen stormwater runoff, stream bank erosion and water pollution. Ninety percent of our drinking water comes from the Potomac. Imagine drinking all the pollutants that wash off our roads and chemically treated lawns!

Slow it down, spread it out, and sink it in:

- Prevent slope erosion with micro-berms, check dams, stone-lined creek beds, and a dense ground layer.
- Plants filter pollutants, and deep-rooted plants, such as many native grasses, hold soil and improve infiltration.
- Plants that evolved along riverbanks tolerate both flooding and drought, so they can handle the weather extremes brought by climate change.

PLANT NOTES: Winterberry thrives in moist soil, and its berries feed migratory birds returning in the spring.



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