# The Gardens of Naugatuck Valley Community College

750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, Conn. 06708

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# INTRODUCTION

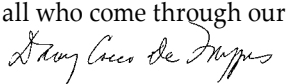
*The word had begun to get out, close and far and wide:*
*Up that hill there is knowledge and beauty and kindness;*
*a garden inviting us all to partake; a joyous garden, a giving garden,*
*cultivated by caring believers in the value of the human race.*

Excerpted from The Giving Garden by Daisy Cocco De Filippis

There is something about a garden, many a phrase would begin, and so there is. The Gardens of Naugatuck Valley Community College are, above all, microcosms of the values we hold dear as an institution. The gardens are cultivated through much hard work and many hours of labor, but also many hours of study, understanding and application of the theories learned. They are teaching laboratories that are open, transparent and beautiful, and contribute much to make Naugatuck Valley Community College a humane and learned institution.

I take great pride in writing these brief words of introduction to what is joyous, caring and giving work. Professors, staff and students, as part of their course work but also on their own time, have come together to draft, imagine and create something that, quite often, cuts across the disciplines, inviting in the sciences, math, business, and yes, also the humanities. Horticulture has to be one of the most beautiful workforce initiatives, a beautiful path to a life-long career.

It is a joy to welcome you to a pictorial sample of the joy, knowledge and beauty to be experienced by all who come through our doors. Thank you for joining our journey, enjoy your stay!



Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

# THE TAMARACK ARBORETUM

The Tamarack Arboretum began with two professors and their students planting commemorative trees as an effort to re-leaf the campus after construction left the land barren and encroached. For hundreds of years, Europeans have planted trees to commemorate births, marriages, ascensions to thrones, military victories and deaths. A scholar tree is planted in China for the passing of a teacher or a low government official, a golden rain tree is planted for a high government official, and a willow is planted for peasants. At the Tamarack Arboretum, there are many commemorative trees donated by friends and family to mark the milestones of campus life.

In 1990, Debra Farrick, a landscape architecture graduate student at the University of Massachusetts, established the design for the grounds. Today, the Tamarack Arboretum comprises 285 different tree and shrub species and 12 horticultural laboratories that support courses and serves as an educational resource for the public. The trees planted are recommended by the Cornell University Urban Tree Institute, as well as the Cooperative Extension Services at UMASS and URI.

# THE TEACHING GARDEN

In 2006, the the Connecticut Nursery and Landscapers Association (CNLA) elected to make the grounds of NVCC the Plant Connecticut annual project for the year. The southern section of the garden was created when CNLA members donated perennial plants and the students and faculty arranged them into an attractive and successful planting design – all in one day.

The following year, the northern section of the garden was added, designed and installed by students thanks to funding from a Perkins Grant. That same grant provided additional funding to enable students in Landscape Mechanics to create the walkways and the wooden arbor. A solar-powered fountain was added in 2010 by Bonnie Simon, professor emeritus. The 'Little King' River Birch, planted in memory of former studentTimothy Dioses dominates, but the tremendously diverse plant selection includes Shasta Daisies, hardy Geraniums and Japanese Anemones in large numbers. Ornamental grasses such as Big Blue Stem, Feather Reed Grass and Japanese Silver Grass provide structural elements and Asters and Helen's Flowers add fall color. The garden is utilized by the horticulture faculty and students to identify plants, realize their cultural and maintenance requirements and understand how they may be used in garden design.

# THE ALAN J. ZINSER MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

Long regarded as the "queen of flowering plants," NVCC proudly planted its first rose garden in 2009 thanks to a generous memorial fund left by former business professor Alan J. Zinser and. The garden provides a living laboratory experience for students and visitors to learn, observe, enjoy and rest within a gated oasis within our urban community college campus. The open design also provides an intimate space for small gatherings, such as poetry/literature readings, art classes, horticultural landscape construction classes and honors receptions.

The rose garden is a living showcase of less-common, lower-maintenance horticultural materials that offer possibilities for the urban/suburban environment and encourage greater and healthier botanical diversity. National Merit Award roses, including the lower-maintenance Knock Out series, are featured to promote cultivars that require far less pesticide intervention. A climbing rose arbor entrance and other hybrid roses encourage student horticulturists to use roses more in their future landscape projects. The garden is surrounded by less commonly found trees such as Persian Parrotia, Hackberry, Hedgemaple, Cornelian Cherry and Rutgers' Hybrid Korean Dogwoods and a variety of flowering Viburnum that are recommended for greater landscape use by the Cornell University Urban Tree Institute and the Cooperative Extension Services at UMASS and URI. The extant trees and shrubs were donated by the Agro-Bio Club, Student Government Association, private donors and the nurseries involved with the CNLA *Plant Connecticut 2006* project.

*The Alan J. Zinser Rose Garden* | 12

# THE SHAKESPEARE GARDEN

"William Shakespeare (1564-1616), the most famous bard in the history of the English language, left us a legacy of beauty and love. Our garden represents a celebration of his love for nature and of people; a space to celebrate our own humanity in harmony with nature. The garden has been created with plants about which he wrote, selected by members of the NVCC family."

— NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis , Ph.D.

The Shakespeare Garden utilizes various species of plants that are found within the literature of William Shakespeare and serves as a space for student leisure, creativity and relaxation. Located in front of the NVCC Fine Arts Center, the garden is cared for by horticulture students throughout the semester.


Shakespeare Garden

# THE POETS' CIRCLE

"So often in life, a poem has the power to express human thought, human emotions, and human creativity in an exceptional way. This garden inspires the visitor with the works of famous international poets, yet the goal is much deeper. This space has been created to invite reflection and communion. Let us embrace the moment and this opportunity to explore the poet within each one of us."

— NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis , Ph.D.

The Poets' Circle is located within central campus, where it utilizes donated hardscape elements to create an area of intellectual exhibition and serves as a multi-functional space. The plaques throughout the space have meaningful poems to inspire visitors and the space is framed by commemorative bricks from donors of the college.

# THE HORTICULTURE GREENHOUSE

The Horticulture Greenhouse is a 5,000 square foot facility with aluminum frame and glass glazing. The greenhouse was completed in 2009-10, at the same time as Technology Hall, to provide a controlled laboratory for Greenhouse Management I, Greenhouse Management II, Plant Propagation & Hybridization, Fruit & Vegetable Production, Herbaceous Plants, and Turf Management courses.

The greenhouse is home to one head-house, one potting-room, two growing areas (one for warm crops, one for cool crops), propagation mats, a mist system, and hydroponics grow units and is synchronized with a three-phase cooling system that utilizes natural evaporative cooling pads and side ventilators. The environment is regulated by an Enviro-Step interior climate system that automates temperature fluctuations based on operational inputs.

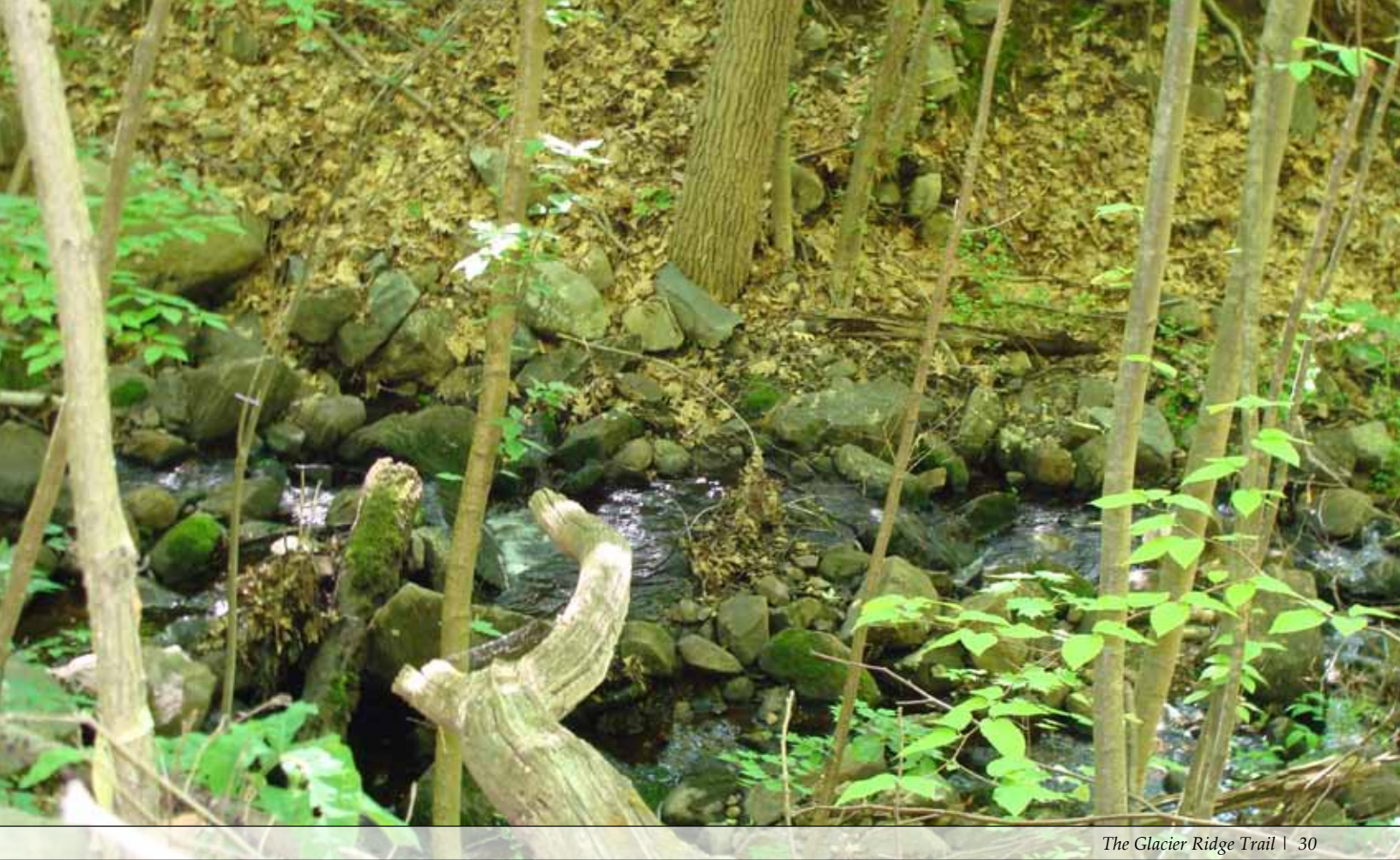

EXIT

# THE GLACIER RIDGE TRAIL

The Glacier Ridge Trail System supports credit and non-credit learning activities in the fields such as environmental science, ecology, botany, geology, archaeology, zoology, forestry, horticulture, and popular interdisciplinary topics like landscape design, photography, and gardening. In addition the trails are actively used by the Center for Teaching for professional development walk and talk experiences and elementary, middle and high school teachers and their classes for field trips.

The property was acquired by the State from the City of Waterbury to provide a site for higher education services and resources for the region. The original plans for the Higher Education Center included the build out of a sports and physical fitness complex on the west end of the campus. After the property was more fully sited, it was determined that resources would not support the auxiliary facilities and 55 acres of land was left undeveloped. In 1998 leaders on campus reviewed a proposal from a local Eagle Scout candidate to develop a two loop trail system on the land that would begin to meet the education, recreation, and fitness goals of the college community and surrounding communities.


Glacier Ridge Trail
Use at your own risk



# WISNIEWSKI JAPANESE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Under the direction of Eugene L. Wisniewski, former professor and program coordinator of horticulture, the horticulture program not only made great strides in enrollment and expansion of course offerings, but also added the 5,000 square foot state-of-the-art greenhouse that students learn in today. The greenhouse opened just a few weeks before the professor's untimely death, which led to the creation of this student-initiated memorial garden.

Former student Regina DelRossi designed the garden for Professor Wisniewski, who had long expressed a desire to create a contemplative, Japanese style garden on campus. DelRossi studied the history, philosophy and design of Japanese Gardens and was meticulous in the placement of the stone lantern and the large boulders that represent mountains. The "dry river bed" flows between the two dominant trees - a weeping Redbud and the Seven Sons Flower - and is bordered by Japanese Irises and Lady's Mantle. Groundcovers, such as creeping Juniper and Mondo Grass were utilized, as well as Irish Moss and Thyme, as substitutes for real moss, which one often sees in the gardens of Kyoto.

Of Professor Wisniewski, Ms. DelRossi said, "It was the gentle, quiet side of him that I liked best. He had a sweet smile. In a way, his personality was like a Japanese Garden, with special, secluded, spots."

# THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

Based on the growing interest in native plants and the movement to create more environmentally sound plantings, horticulture faculty decided to create a "sustainable" garden on campus. The total area actually consists of four gardens with diverse microclimates, all planted with native North American plants ideally suited to the environment in which they were planted. There are no exotic plants that could escape into the natural environment; the plants require no irrigation or fertilization and encourage wildlife by providing shelter and food, primarily berries and seeds, to wildlife. The gardens are multi-seasonal, starting with spring-blooming Trout Lilies, Blue Star and yellow False Indigo and continue flowering into the late summer and fall, when the bright, colorful Asters, perennial sunflowers and flowing, ornamental grasses dominate. Three Hawthorn trees provide a striking background for the Mountain Laurel, Hydrangea and Fothergilla shrubs as well as ground covering plants such as Golden Star, Appalachian Sedge and Barren Strawberry. Joe Pye Weed, Lupines and Switchgrass surround a Flowering Dogwood in an adjacent section. The gardens have become an "outdoor laboratory" for students in the horticulture program, assisting in plant identification and appreciation of their use in sustainable landscape design.

# THE BIBLICAL GARDEN

The bible has long been an inspiration to humanity in many ways. Authors have written many treasured masterworks based on biblical themes, metaphors and parables - whether it be Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, William Faulker's *Absalom, Absalom!*, John Milton' *Paradise Lost*, or Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*. The tremendous impact of the Bible on human thought and writing remains unparalleled.

The Biblical Garden provides a quiet respite - "Beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul" (Psalm 23). The garden encompasses biblical quotations for the 45 biblical plants that can grow in this region amidst other symbols. As a member of the Biblical Botanical Gardens Society - USA, this garden joins an increasing global movement to provide such places to augment campus and public life. The garden is dedicated on the 400 anniversary of the printing of the King James Bible (1611A.D.).

# THE MEDICINAL GARDEN

Medicinal Plants have been used since the dawn of humanity to treat a variety of maladies. This garden is dedicated to the graduates of our medical health programs. Established by the Agro-Bio Club, the collection is meant to promote greater awareness of medicinal plants and their important contribution to society. The garden collection comprises 40 medically important plant species.

# THE ALCOVE PLANTING

The objective for the Alcove Planting was to provide opportunities for maintaining a visual aesthetic while negotiating a severely sloped site. The existing site near Ekstrom Hall had been overgrown for years; offices and windows from the third, fourth, and fifth floors looked upon the neglected landscape. To remedy this situation, plants were selected based on two primary criteria: the feasibility of growth on such a severely sloped site and the color/texture that would be viewed from the Ekstrom Hall windows. The intent of the final installation was to create a nice view while maintaining the integrity of the site. Additionally, soil erosion products were installed within the slope to be used for lab instruction for Horticulture courses.

*The Alcove Planting* | *50*

# THE EARTH-KIND ROSE TESTING SITE

The Earth-Kind Rose Testing Site is a 4-year research project in collaboration with Texas A & M University and the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG with the objective of identifying sustainable rose cultivars. The trials include NVCC, the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden at Boothbay and the Central Park Rose Garden in Schenectady, NY.

Data will be collected by horticulture students and included in national publications. These test sites join Iowa State, Kansas State, Louisiana State, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin Universities along with the Boerner Botanical Gardens, and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The NVCC test site, however, is the only one on a steep bank. Overall, the national project supports rose research as well as public education into how Earth-Kind roses are capable of growing sustainably even in difficult sites. Approximately 37 different Earth-Kind cultivars will be planted at our test site in spring 2012.


*The Earth-Kind Rose Testing Site* | 52

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gardens are powerful representations of human values and aspirations. The gardens of the Naugatuck Valley Community College inspire respect for nature and support learning about our earth and our environment. As teaching tools, they also embrace the concept of giving and nurturing; engagement and love that extend beyond the self. Their existence, care and nurture owe much to generous individuals, faculty, staff and students, and associations and groups. Grateful recognition of self-less and talented contributions go to:

Professor Joseph Faryniartz
Students in the Agro-Biology Club
Faculty and students in the Horticulture program
Professor Christopher Tuccio
Professor Robert Herman
NVCC Student Government Association
Students in the Culture for Peace Club
The Alan Zinser Family
Professor Eugene Winewski's Legacy
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David Freedman
Dean James Troup
Dean Waldemar Kostrzewa
Perkins Grant

# INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The following businesses and organizations have assisted in the development of the Naugatuck Valley Community College gardens and in the continued success of the horticulture program through monetary and equipment donations, student scholarships, program advertisement, and advisory council.

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Association for Professional Landscape Designers
4305 North Sixth Street, Suite A
Harrisburg, PA 17110

The Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association
600 Main Street, Bart Center
Monroe, CT 06468

The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association
600 Main Street, Bart Center
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The Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society
30 Pine Street
Columbia, CT 06237-1516

The Connecticut Horticultural Society
2433 Main Street,
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

The Connecicut Rhododendron Society
5 Duncaster Wood
Granby, CT, 06035

The Waterbury Garden Club, FGCCT
PO Box 854
Branford, CT 06405

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET)
950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450
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