

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
Trip to Shelburne Falls Bridge of Flowers
July 11, 2023

No General Meeting was held. A summary of the trip follows:

Our trip was organized by Eja Heekin with assistance from Diane Van Kempen. Fourteen members attended.

Members of the Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club (Annette and Carol) welcomed us warmly with a detailed presentation on the history of the Bridge of Flowers, founded in 1929 on an unused 19th century trolley bridge. They explained how the garden is maintained (employing two part-time professional gardeners and many Women's Club volunteers) and supported financially (largely through donations). Its 1,000 visitors each year help sustain the shopkeepers, businesses, artisans, and vitality of the Shelburne Falls/Buckland area.

Annette and Carol led us on a leisurely bridge tour, noting the ancient, twisting wisteria vines climbing the old telephone poles. Garden maintenance was impeccable, with satisfying repetition, variety and layering.

We enjoyed the disorienting power of the flood-engorged Deerfield River cascading over falls and then broke into smaller groups for lunch.

Note: the garden will be closed in 2024 for renovation.

Thank you, Eja and Diane!