

WILLIAMSTOWN GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING
June 9, 2026
Stanley Park in Westfield, MA

Our June meeting was a field trip to a large garden that none of us had been to before—Stanley Park in Westfield, a non-profit privately owned park on 25 acres of land, including an arboretum and botanical garden, as well as a network of walking trails, all open to the public daily free of charge from May to November. Ten members left the Walgreens parking lot on a little school bus shortly before 8:00 a.m., and arrived on the grounds of this sprawling, well-manicured park and garden in time to catch the 10:00 a.m. tour of the extensive rose gardens.

Everything was in bloom, there wasn't a speck of deadwood to be seen, all of the beds were perfectly mulched, and each variety was labeled. (The Pink Pavement shrub roses were planted in 1989; the Geoff Hamilton English roses in 1998, the Music Box shrub roses in 2012, and the Snowdrift Shrub roses in 2007.) The horticulturalist and two gardeners spoke with us, explaining the history of the park, the passions of its founder (Frank Stanley Beverage, who founded Stanley Home Products in 1933 and spent most of his career developing parts of this property for the public to enjoy), and the popularity of some of the different varieties of roses they've been growing. They took time to answer our questions, and then we were free to wander the park on our own.

Some members visited the Asian garden, some walked to the duck ponds and covered bridge, some spent time in a nearby rose garden or on the woodland wildflowers trail. We met for lunch in a shady grove of evergreen trees with picnic tables and lots of singing birds, where some of us shared cookies, and then we had more free time to stroll the grounds before boarding our bus. We came back to Williamstown shortly before 3 p.m.

Submitted by
Pat Wilk
Recording Secretary