

The Garden Club of Danville Grove City Cemetery

Since 1937, The Garden Club of Danville, in partnership with the City of Danville, has passionately dedicated itself to preserving the historic Grove Street Cemetery, established between 1830 and 1920. In 2023, the club launched the Preservation, Conservation and Restoration project to honor this important landmark for future generations.

The project will include the installation of 100 vibrant shrubs, four majestic trees, beautiful perennials, and three elegant granite benches. Local third-grade students will help nurture many of the perennials from seed, fostering a sense of community stewardship.

Preserving the intricate ironwork and gravestones is crucial, as they are precious archaeological artifacts that make the cemetery an open-air museum. This site is a vital historical and educational resource, offering a chance for all ages to connect with Danville's rich history.

Funds from the Common Wealth Award will support:

- Completing the landscaping.
- Cleaning and restoring gravestones and ironwork.
- Installing benches for reflection.
- Erecting a granite monument honoring the nameless souls buried here, inscribed with: "WE DEDICATE THIS MONUMENT IN HONOR OF THE NAMELESS SOULS BURIED HERE KNOWN ONLY TO GOD." This monument will serve as a meaningful tribute to the many unknown graves at Grove Street Cemetery, ensuring their memory is cherished.

The Leesburg Garden Club

The Dodona Native Pollinator Gateway Garden

Located in downtown Leesburg, the 3.8-acre property that was once the home of General George C. Marshall, Dodona Manor, now houses The George C. Marshall International Center. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Marshall engineered lasting peace after WWII through his foresightful and enduring Marshall Plan for Europe. The mission of the Marshall Center is to "bring to life the timeless values of selfless service and unwavering integrity, to develop visionary leaders worldwide."

The site is within walking distance of many residents and is one of few open green space properties publicly accessible within Leesburg.

Two existing gardens, The Peace Garden and a community vegetable garden, have begun the timely work of drawing public attention to George Marshall's vision.

Leesburg Garden Club seeks to build on this tradition by establishing The Dodona Native Pollinator Gateway Garden near the primary entrance to the property. An area of 72' long by 6' to 15' wide will be filled with native plants and shrubs chosen for year-round interest and their provision of food and habitat for local pollinators, overwintering insects, and birds. Students and townspeople alike will be welcomed to a significant experience, combining an awareness of the past and a call to future stewardship.