

Quogue Garden of Remembrance  
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The Quogue's Garden of Remembrance has its roots in The Battery Conservancy on the southern tip of Manhattan. During the horrific events of September 11, 2001, many people in downtown Manhattan sought safety at The Battery. The Battery Gardens, once a place of joy and beauty, was suddenly a shelter for those running for their lives during one of the deadliest attacks on our nation's soil.

Along the road to recovery, The Battery Conservancy recognized the need to rebuild its 25- acre gardens. The Conservancy's Founder and President, Warrie Price, contacted the Dutch landscape artist Piet Oudolf to be a part of a transformative redesign and rebuild. Known for his use of perennials and native plants, Piet proposed to design (2003) "the Garden of Remembrance" with over 5,000 plants from more than 100 unique species. The 10,000 square feet gardens lie along the elevated border of the Battery Promenade. Their sign reads: "The Gardens of Remembrance are dedicated to those who lost their lives on September eleventh 2001, to the survivors and to all who come seeking renewed optimism and hope."

After this magnificent work at the Battery Park, Oudolf went on to landscape The Lurie Garden at Chicago's Botanical Gardens in 2004 and New York's glorious High Line Park in 2006.

On May 19, 2011 The Quogue Fire Department, one of the responding fire departments, was given a six-foot I-beam from one of the towers for their bravery on 9/11/01. This I-beam is now our local 9/11 Memorial to remember those fallen. In 2019 the Westhampton Garden Club decided to create a Garden of Remembrance right here in Quogue, and what better a place than around the 9/11 Monument, which stands on the south side of the firehouse. This miniature garden is a collaborative effort between Warrie Price of The Battery Conservancy and the Westhampton Garden Club.

We had heard from Mary Kelberg former president (2014-16) of our club that Warrie Price was interested in donating plants to our Memorial Garden. We contacted Warrie in Oct.2019 and she told us she wanted us to come and help to put in some work for the plants we would receive next spring. We thought this would make a great opportunity to do some charity work at the Battery.

On Nov.19 we left Quogue early morning on the Jitney and arrived by subway down at the Battery. After arriving and being introduced to the Battery Garden Manager, Sean Kiely, the Head Horticulturist Gabriela Martin and Gardner Luciana Gomes that provided us with gloves and garden tools we went to work in teams and within a few hours we had planted about 5,000 Crocus bulbs with the help of two of the Battery gardeners in the "Gardens of Remembrance". Six ladies from our Westhampton Garden Club showed up; (Joy Flynn, WGC President 2016-18, Susanne Jansson, WGC Provisional, 2019-20, Mary Kelberg, WGC President 2014-16, Inger Mejean, WGC President 2018-2020, Joan Reilly, WGC Provisional 2019-20 and Lone Schweitzer, WGC Member.) We were honored to be joined by Warrie Price and her team at the lovely luncheon that Mary hosted that afternoon. Thank You to our six WGC Members for a job, well done! That was the beginning of this Saga.

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We want to thank our Mayor Peter Sartorius, Village Trustee, Jeanette Obser, the Fire Chief at the time Chris Osborne and the WGC all gave our project the green light end of November 2019.

We applied for a \$1,000 grant from the PLANT AMERICA, National Garden Clubs (NGC) Program, making the entire operation possible by December 2019. Thank you for making this garden a reality!

We needed a survey of the grounds, per the Conservancy's request and some beautiful bushes to cover up the piping on the firehouse wall that is part of this garden; We chose the dark leafy Inkberry Holly.

We were expecting an estimate from Dragonfly landscaping. However, after hearing more about the project, they offered to donate their services: preparing the flower beds and installing the plants with the drawing from the Battery in a natural Piet Oudolf's style.

We were supposed to have transplanted specimens from Piet Oudolf's "Gardens of Remembrance" Border to our QGR last Spring, 2020. But in Feb. 2020, we were locked down. More than a year later, in the Spring of 2021, we proceeded safely under the CDC's guidelines with a vaccine.

Ten years after receiving the I-beam on the same date, May 19, 2021 we went in to receive the plants from The Battery Conservancy Here we are in 2021, and come this fall, we will memorialize 20 years since 9/11/2001. On May 19, 2021, the Quogue Fire Department provided a van and two Fire Fighters, Michael McMahon and David Schaffauer that helped pick up 68 plants from the Battery Conservancy, creating a connection between our two gardens that goes much deeper than roots.

Thank you to Lynda Confessore (WGC – Communications Chair) for engaging the Southampton Press in documenting the transplanting between The Battery Conservancy's "Gardens of Remembrance" and our "Quogue Garden of Remembrance".

Andrew Botsford had a lovely write up of QGR in his Blog. Thank you, Andrew!

Thank you to Joy Flynn (WGC – President 2016-18) for being responsible for the photos taken at the Battery.

Thank you to Joan Reilly and Susanne Jansson (WGC - Members) for their dedication to this project.

We want to thank The Battery Conservancy for this enriching collaboration, particularly its Founder and President, Warrie Price, the Park Manager, Sean Kiely, the Head Horticulturist Gabriela Marin and Gardner Luciana Gomes.

Thanking the WGC Board and our President Melissa Morgan Nelson for not giving up on us. It was a long journey but the garden is now planted and we think it looks amazing.

It was an honor for me to serve as President of the WGC and be a part of this story in particular. May this Memorial bring peace and solace to all those who visit this sacred place.

Inger Mejean, President 2018-2020 Westhampton Garden Club