

# Sanderson Street Pocket Park

## Final Report

### Summary of Accomplishments

During the winter of 2024, YCAFC collaborated with City staff and other community members on the design of the Sanderson Street Pocket Park. The Planning Department, Health Department, and Parks and Recreation--all based at 20 Sanderson Street--were consulted on the design of the pocket park. In addition, teachers and staff at Greenfield Middle School (located directly across the street) were engaged in the design process. GMS teacher Julie Erickson (the leader of the GMS garden club) was an important partner during this stage.

After developing a conceptual design, YCAFC held a community design charette at 20 Sanderson Street (see photo page 10). Thirteen people left written feedback at this event, which took place on March 19, 2024.

During the summer of 2024 YCAFC installed the first phase of this project. In front of the office building and it's parking lot, four areas of turf grass lawn were replaced with site-appropriate plant communities featuring a diversity of Massachusetts native perennials, shrubs, and trees. Over a two week period in late July and early August, five youth participants removed invasive species, dug up old landscape fabric, spread Ramboard (a biodegradable weed barrier made of recycled paper), installed nursery plants, and lastly, spread woodchips dumped at the site by the DPW.

During the winter of 2025 YCAFC constructed a wooden bench and a nestbox for the Sanderson Street Pocket Park. These elements were installed on site in April 2025.

A second round of planting occurred in the summer of 2025. The tree belt in front of the bulidng was converted from lawn to native perennials, and sedges, ferns, and shrubs were planted in the shady area under the canopy of the large Black Oak tree.



Planting the tree belt

7/28/25



## Stewardship and Phase 2

YCAFC will continue to maintain the Sanderson Street Pocket Park in collaboration with the Greenfield Department of Public Works. Managed succession of the plantings will support an evolving habitat mosaic while preserving the planting's structure. Removing invasive species and undesirable woody plants will be the primary maintenance activities.

Secondly, YCAFC will continue to remove invasive species from around the building's parking lot. These include Common Mugwort, Oriental Bittersweet, Bittersweet Nightshade, and mulberry.

In the spring of 2026, YCAFC will begin implementing Phase 2, which will include plantings behind the building, and, potentially, the island across the street at Greenfield Middle School. In addition, YCAFC will begin stewarding the forested border between 20 Sanderson and the Federal Street Cemetery. At present, this linear woodland is being smothered by Oriental Bittersweet--YCAFC will use hands and hand tools to pull or cut these vines. Funding for Phase 2 will come from Greenfield Community College's Climate Service Corps, and other sources.



Before beginning work 7/28/24



Planting the tree belt 7/28/25

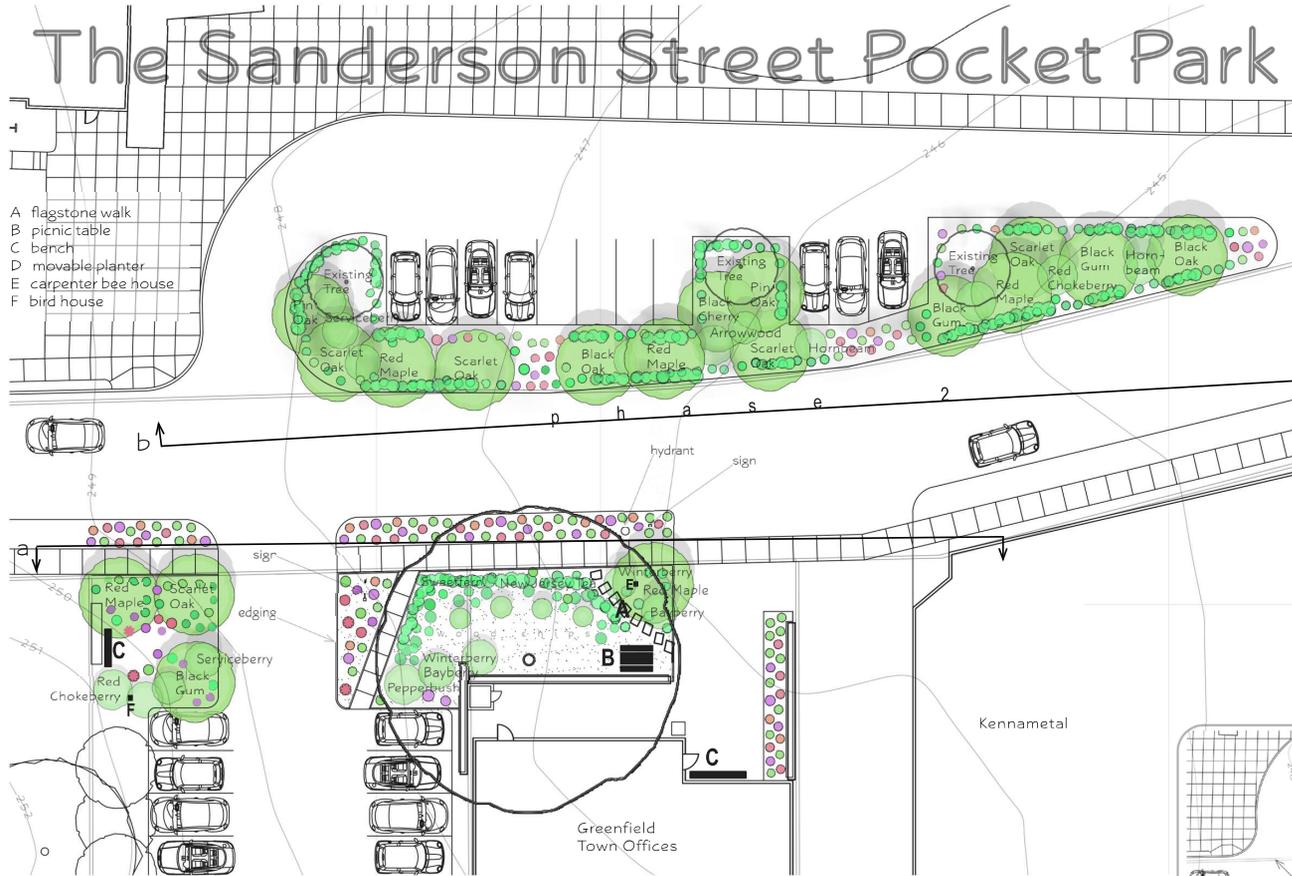


Constructing bench and birdhouses 2/4/25



After installing the bench and birdhouse 4/1/25

# The Sanderson Street Pocket Park



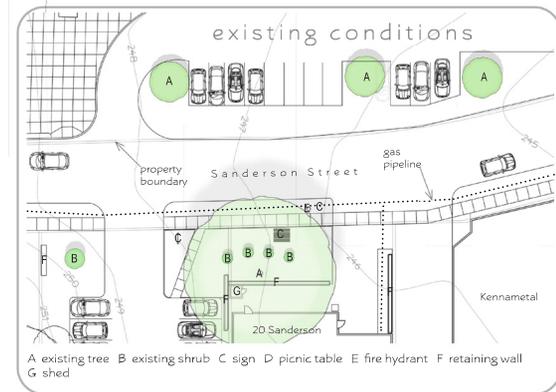
- A flagstone walk
- B picnic table
- C bench
- D movable planter
- E carpenter bee house
- F bird house

## Trees and shrubs

- Red Maple
- Acer rubrum
- Pin Oak
- Quercus palustris
- Black Oak
- Quercus velutina
- Scarlet Oak
- Quercus coccinea
- Black Cherry
- Prunus virginiana
- Black Gum
- Nyssa sylvatica
- Hop Hornbeam
- Ostrya virginiana
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Viburnum dentatum
- Red Chokeberry
- Aronia arbutifolia
- Winterberry
- Ilex verticillata
- Inkberry
- Ilex glabra
- Bayberry
- Myrica pensylvanica
- Red-Osier Dogwood
- Cornus sericea
- Sweet Pepperbush
- Clethra alnifolia
- Sweet Fern
- Comptonia peregrina
- New Jersey Tea
- Ceanothus americanus
- Virginia Rose
- Rosa virginiana

## Herbaceous Plants

- Pennsylvania Sedge
- Carex pensylvanica
- Yarrow
- Acchillea millefolium
- Beardtongue
- Penstemon digitalis
- Tickseed
- Coreopsis spp.
- Salvia
- Salvia nemorosa
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Rudbeckia hirta
- Bee Balm
- Monarda didyma
- Purple Coneflower
- Echinacea purpurea
- Rattlesnake Master
- Eryngium yuccifolium
- Sedum
- Sedum 'Autumn Joy'
- Maximilian Sunflower
- Helianthus maximiliani
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Aesculus tuberosa
- Adam's Needle
- Yucca filamentosa
- Little Bluestem
- Schizachyrium scoparium
- Prairie Dropseed
- Sporobolus heterolepis
- Broomsedge
- Andropogon virginicus
- Purple Love Grass
- Eragrostis spectabilis

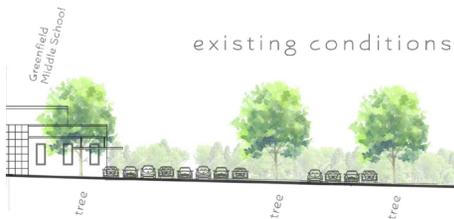


The Sanderson Street Pocket Park

section a



section b  
phase 2



1" = 20'  
0 5' 10' 20' 40'



# The Sanderson Street Pocket Park

**Phase 2**  
replace lawn with layered forest planting

**Phase 1**  
Implementation began in 2024, to be completed August 2025.

**Phase 2**  
replace lawn with native perennials

remove invasives from forested border and replace with native shrubs and small trees

construct a garden path connecting the parking lot with the alleyway

create a contemplative seating space



Phase 2 of the Sanderson Street Pocket Park will focus on the space behind the Greenfield City Offices and the island across Sanderson Street, at Greenfield Middle School. The project will convert lawn to native plant communities and create useful spaces for neighborhood residents, City employees, and GMS students.



THE BRICK HOUSE  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

drawn by Peter Wackernagel 6.26.25



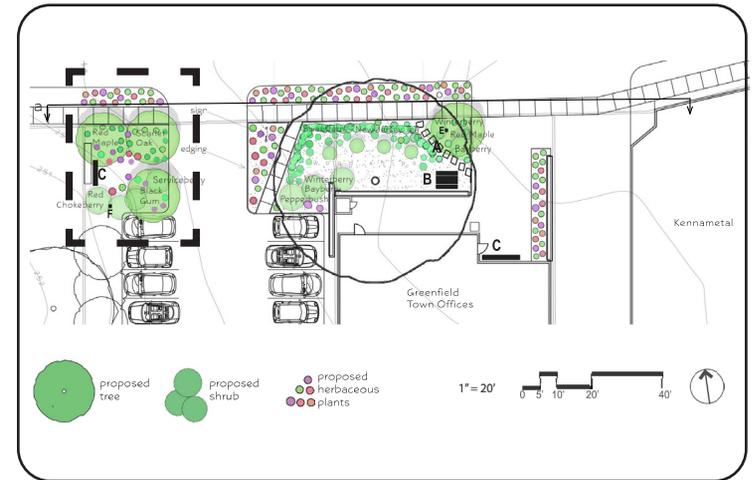
Before 7/28/24



Installation 7/31/24



After 8/16/24





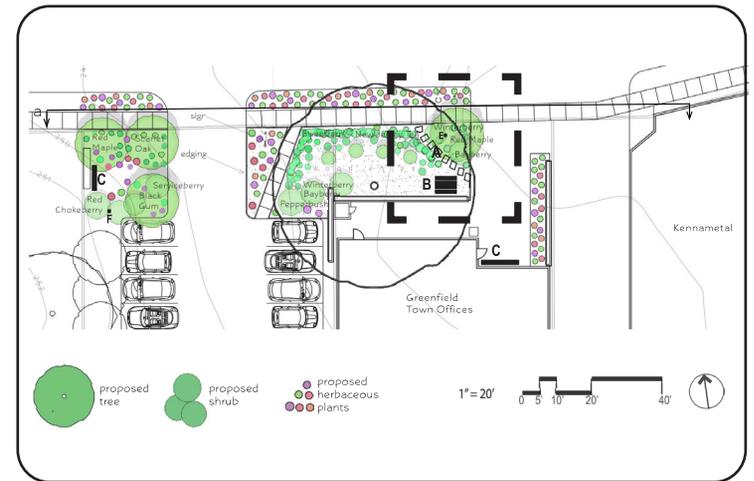
Before 7/28/24



Installation 8/7/24



After 8/16/24





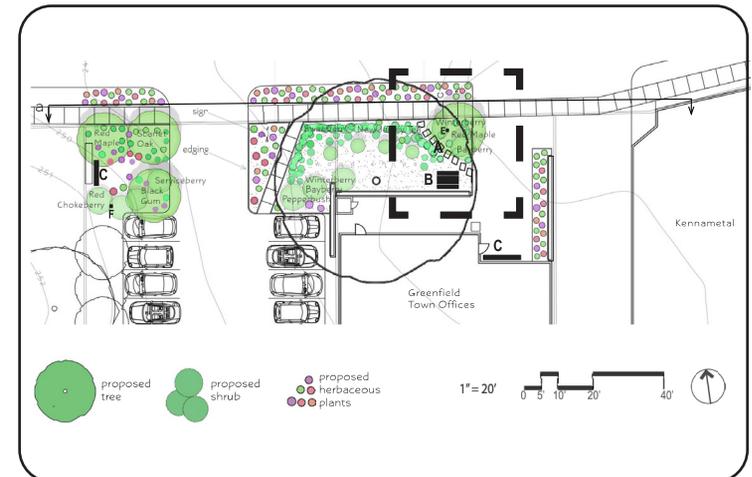
Before 7/28/24



The 2024 crew: from left, Gage Stanislawski, Jayden Boyer, Jamal Taylor, Peter Wackernagel, Oliver West  
7/29/24



After 8/16/24





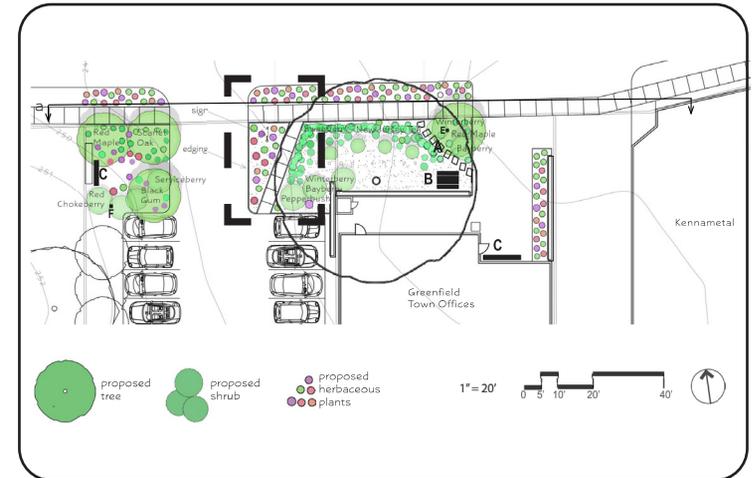
Before 7/28/24



Installation 7/29/24



After 8/16/24



# GREENFIELD RECORDER

NEWS

## Pocket park taking root on Sanderson Street in Greenfield

by Anthony Cammalleri Staff Writer  
March 26, 2024



Local landscape engineer Peter Wackernagel discusses plans to create a pocket park at 20 Sanderson St. with Greenfield residents. Credit: STAFF PHOTO/ANTHONY CAMMALLERI

GREENFIELD — Residents are working to bring a small patch of almost barren land surrounding the 20 Sanderson St. building back to life with the creation of a pocket park this summer.

Using a \$7,500 grant from the Licensed Site Professionals Association and some help from the Department of Public Works, local landscape engineer Peter Wackernagel is teaming up with volunteers from the community group Greening Greenfield to transform the building's front and rear with native species, shrubs, park benches and possibly electric bikes.

The building houses multiple town offices and services, such as the health, planning and recreation departments. During a recent visit, Wackernagel collected feedback from residents on what they hope to see in the future park space.

Wackernagel first proposed the idea roughly a year ago when former Mayor Roxann Wedegartner sought to give the city-owned property a facelift. Being a landscape engineer, Wackernagel said he originally planned to upgrade the property's horticulture, but later expanded the project to build an outdoor community space for residents to enjoy.

"The other main idea is just to improve public spaces as social spaces that people can use. A lot of people work in this building, and people also come here on business. We just want to create spaces that those people can use," he said.

Given the property's close proximity to Greenfield Middle School, Wackernagel said he and his team have been in communication with the school's Garden Club in an effort to engage students in gardening by letting them plant in the area. Greening Greenfield member Peg Hall, who works with the school club, said she is excited to let the children collaborate on the project.

"I'm excited about the fact that they could come work on the project without needing a school bus to have a field trip," Hall said. "We already do the Garden Club on that side [of the street], so they're outdoors once a week and I think it would be a good collaboration."

Greening Greenfield member Nancy Hazard said she wants to see local plants and shrubs that will benefit the pollinator population and the land's ecosystem.

"Moths and butterflies are particularly interesting to me because they lay their eggs on trees mostly, and then caterpillars are the food that the birds need in order to raise their young and so on," Hazard explained. "A lot of birds live in trees because that's where their food is. That's the bigger picture of wanting a more native habitat, and then also the beauty of it all."

Health Inspector Jess Maenzo-Tanner, on the other hand, said she hopes to see an E-bike rental station installed at the site, adding that she thinks it would be good for the city financially, for transportation and for encouraging residents to spend time outside.

The project's first phase, Wackernagel said, is expected to begin in late June or July. He's planning to complete the project's basics by August.

Hi! Please attend a community design meeting for the Sanderson Street Pocket Park.



How would you like to use the landscape at 20 Sanderson St? Help us figure out how this space could better serve residents, students, city employees, and other community members.

Tuesday, March 19, 2:30-6:00 PM. Just drop in!  
Have ideas but can't make the event? Email Peter: [p.wackernagel@gmail.com](mailto:p.wackernagel@gmail.com)



Flyer for the charette

Thanks LSPA for funding this project!



6/15/25

