

Elizabeth Park Conservancy
1561 Asylum Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 231-9443
www.elizabethparkct.org

Contact:

Christine M. Doty

Elizabeth Park Conservancy

(860) 231-9443, ext. 102

cdoty@elizabethparkct.org

Elizabeth Park Conservancy receives Patricelli Gift for Greenhouse Restoration

West Hartford, Jan. 20, 2022 –The Elizabeth Park Conservancy is pleased to announce a \$600,000 grant from The Robert & Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation, Inc. that will provide important aid to the restoration of Elizabeth Park’s three historic greenhouses. The greenhouses are in poor shape and badly in need of restoration (the last restoration was in 2004) and environmental upgrades. Since the beginning of Elizabeth Park, these structures have been working greenhouses that include growing seedlings, providing plants for Elizabeth Park’s gardens, and serving as a presentation space for botanical exhibits like the March spring bulb show. With the aid of the Patricelli grant, the Conservancy hopes to have the restoration work completed this summer.

Once completed, the complex will be known as the Sweetland-Patricelli Greenhouses, with two of the individual houses dedicated to the memory of the couple’s mothers, Carolyn Rood Sweetland and Lydia Erdman Patricelli. The third will be dedicated in the name of Margaret Sweetland Patricelli.

"Both our Moms were self-effacing and giving women who loved Nature and gardening, and spending time at the Park. They both also enjoyed sharing Nature's beauty with children, and increasing their interest and curiosity. Part of their 'teaching' was how to appreciate and care for plants of all kinds, skills that kids could apply to people too. You could describe our Moms as 'early environmentalists'," said Bob and Margaret Patricelli.

The announcement of this major grant was made by the Conservancy's Chairman of the Board Ben Flynn, Board member and Development Committee Chair Joanne Eudy, and President & CEO Christine M. Doty. All express their sincere thanks to Margaret and Robert Patricelli for their generous grant made in December 2021.



Elizabeth Park is one of the top ten tourist destinations in the State of Connecticut. The Park's visitors—from all over the globe—appreciate the beauty of the Park's renowned gardens including roses, perennials, and annuals.

The Elizabeth Park Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1977, that partners with the City of Hartford in the maintenance and improvement of Elizabeth Park. The Conservancy has a more than 40-year track record managing improvements in Elizabeth Park, which is owned by the City of Hartford is home to the nation's oldest municipal rose garden, now known as the Helen S Kaman Rose Garden, after the Conservancy's first president.

Elizabeth Park opened to the public in the spring of 1897 on property donated to the City of Hartford by Charles Pond, in honor of his wife Elizabeth. The Conservancy will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Elizabeth Park this summer. The Park is on the national register of historic

places and offers more than 100 acres of formal gardens, green space, recreational facilities, walking loops and the Pond House Café. Elizabeth Park is open to the public year-round, from dawn to dusk.