

Seekonk Meadows

Seekonk Meadows is a nine acre meadowland of tall grasses and wildflowers. It has walking trails, picnic tables, benches and an amphitheater and stage for outdoor summer concerts and events.

Background and History

1963-1978	Served as Seekonk's town dump
1978-2007	Landfill fenced in and overgrown
1977	Voted to be site of new library
1981	Library grand opening
1993	Ken Lagerquist, President of the Seekonk Library Trust from 1996 to 2006 and Sharon St. Hilaire, Director of the Seekonk Library from 1977 to 2011, envisioned creating a meadow on top of the abandoned landfill.
2000	Marc Mazzarelli, Landscape Architect, retained to design the meadows.
2008	Town of Seekonk contracted with an engineering firm and a construction company to begin the work of capping and securing the landfill.
2010	Capping complete.
2011	Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued necessary permits
2012	Seekonk Meadows Grand Opening

- Capping means stirring up the landfill to release gasses, putting in gas emission pipes and covering the landfill with a membrane, 10" of gravel, 10" of loam and, finally, with a covering of grasses to prevent erosion. Capped landfills are usually left as grassy hills. Creating a meadowland and community gathering space is unique.
- Because it is being developed on a former landfill, the DEP has strict regulations about how the land can (and can't) be used. The DEP requires that the Meadows only be used for passive recreation. This means, among other things, no motorized vehicles or digging not authorized by Seekonk's Department of Public Works.
- Passive recreation activities are those that don't endanger the capped landfill and include walking, running, wildlife observation, photography and snowshoeing.
- The funding to create Seekonk Meadows has been raised entirely by private donations.

What's Happening Now

- The Meadows provide access to the Gammino Pond conservation area, a sixty-acre property that includes a five-acre pond and is managed by the town's Conservation Commission.
- The gardens are designed to require minimal maintenance, the amphitheater will be mowed for summer events and the Meadows are mowed once a year.

Seekonk Meadows 2014 Schedule

MEADOWS 3rd ANNUAL SUMMER OPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 21st from 4-6pm

Seekonk Meadows, Seekonk's first community gathering space, will be holding its' 3rd annual Summer Opening Celebration on Saturday, June 21st from 2-6pm.

Scheduled events on this Summer Solstice afternoon include musical performances on the amphitheater stage, children's nature activities, local artists sharing their talents, master gardener demonstrations, a kite making workshop for kids, professional kite flying and walking tours of the Meadows.

Musical performances during this community event include performers from the Hurley Middle School, Seekonk High School, the Noteworthy Singing Group, and the New England Swing Orchestra which specializes in Big Band Theme songs from the 30's, 40's and 50's.

The event will be held rain or shine.

For more information: contact cherylfaria@verizon.net

SUMMER CONCERTS

Wednesday Evenings from 6:30-7:30

July 9

July 16

July 30

August 6

SEEKONK MEADOWS GARDENING SESSIONS

3rd Tuesday of the month from 4-6pm on the grounds of the Seekonk Library

April 15

August 19

May 20

September 16

June 17

October 21

July 15

Plants in the Meadows

Plants on the former nine-acre landfill behind the Seekonk Public Library

CURRENTLY PLANTED

In the Meadows

- Tall fescue grasses
- Wildflower mix with perennials including coreopsis, echinacea (cone flower), perovskia (Russian sage), fountain grass, yarrow and false indigo.

Beside the library

- Rhododendron, evergreen ewes, white pine, grasses, viburnum and crab apple tree
- Two years ago the Seekonk Gardeners planted hybrid lilies
- Last year we added chrysanthemums and annuals, herbs, flowers and vegetables provided by URI greenhouses

WILDLIFE in the Meadows - Deer, Fox, Canada Geese, Mallard Ducks, Mocking Bird, Blue Jay, Gold Finch, Cardinal, Chickadees

FUTURE PLANS FOR PLANTING

Perimeter of parking area

- In notches of fencing, add knock out pink roses (shrub roses) and perennials such as perovskia (Russian sage), sedum, coreopsis and echinacea (cone flowers) for a long season of bloom and color

Garden by the Library

- Maintain day lilies, grasses and put in new annuals

Around the Gazebo

- Drought tolerant perennials including cone flowers, Russian sage, clethra and other native perennials.

Seekonk Meadows is a joint project of the Town of Seekonk, the Seekonk Library Trust, the Seekonk Board of Library Trustees, the Seekonk Land Conservation Trust, Friends of the Seekonk Library, the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee. It is managed by the Seekonk Meadows Management committee, a five member volunteer group established in July, 2008.

Seekonk Meadows Management Committee

Dave Cabral, Engineer, Dept. of Public Works
Cynthia Corbett, member, Friends of the Library
Rob Emlen, member, Seekonk Land Trust
Cheryl Faria, member, Seekonk Library Trustees
Larry Hindle, owner, Evergreen Tree & Landscape Service