Edgewood Garden Club
Edgewood, Pennsylvania

Title of Project
Edgewood Memorial Park

Number of Club Members: 58
State Garden Club Affiliation
Pennsylvania Federation of Garden Clubs

CONTACT PERSON
Mrs. Doris Jones
MEMBER, Edgewood Garden Club
CHAIR, Civic Advisory and War Memorial
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ESTIMATED COST OF TOTAL PROJECT: $6180.00
ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE: May 2006
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT
Edgewood began as a village in 1864 and was incorporated in 1888 as a .56 square mile Borough about seven miles due east of downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is a residential community of about 3,311 people (2000 census) located in Allegheny County. Important post-incorporation activity included dedication in 1921 of the Edgewood Memorial Park, a grassy shaded area in the heart of the community that serves as the setting for the bronze doughboy statue and for the monuments erected in 1921, the seven pin oak trees planted as living memorials and for the Roll of Honor plaques installed in 1997, all dedicated and in honor of the sons of Edgewood families who gave their lives in service to the United States of America during World War I, World War II and the Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

Edgewood Memorial Park exists in its original 1921 location. The landscape retains all of its original elements and feeling of reverence. Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes provided by the US Secretary of the Interior in 1966 indicate that losses to the Edgewood Memorial Park landscape have not occurred. Stewardship of the property requires retention of the property’s historic character and features and repair rather than replacement or new construction.

The Edgewood Garden Club is requesting Principal Financial Group Foundation Civic Development Grant Program 2005-2007 funding in the maximum amount of $3,000.00 toward payment for restoration of the Edgewood Memorial Park flagstone (slate) plaza and for the purchase of a National Garden Clubs, Inc/Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker for Edgewood Memorial Park.

COMMUNITY IMPACT
In 1957, upon the request of the Edgewood Borough Manager, the Edgewood Borough Council and the Edgewood Garden Club (Civic Advisory and War Memorial, Chair) formed a Borough Advisory Committee and in 1962 this entity had a landscape plan developed for Memorial Park. At Edgewood Garden Club expense, a retaining wall behind the monuments and concrete steps were installed and over the years planters and concrete benches have been purchased; cement statuary and plantings have been replaced; and the flower beds and shrubbery have been reworked. In 1997 Korean and Viet Nam Veteran Roll of Honor plaques were installed and the bronze doughboy statue and World War I and World War II Roll of Honor plaques restored, funding assumed by the Edgewood Garden Club, Edgewood Borough and by the Edgewood Historical Society and their solicitation of individual, civic and business contributions. Members of the Edgewood community have gathered in Edgewood Memorial Park each May since 1921 in observance of Memorial Day and in November of 1996 and in November of 1997 they gathered here again for rededication ceremonies following the extensive restoration and installation work in Edgewood Memorial Park.

In that Edgewood Memorial Park is located in the center of the community, visible on two sides from routinely-used roadways and accessible to passer-by from sidewalks on two sides, work done in Edgewood Memorial Park will demonstrate to the community-at-large the continuing investment of the Edgewood community in its public spaces honoring those who serve our country. This may encourage others and in turn their communities to make a similar investment.
The Edgewood Garden Club received the GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF PENNSYLVANIA Myrrel R. Overdorff Community Action Award in 1998 for its work in Edgewood Memorial Park.

**COMMUNITY GREENING AWARD:** Prior to June 2006 and following tree pruning in Edgewood Memorial Park (to be contracted by the Edgewood Historical Society), the Edgewood Garden Club will nominate the Edgewood Memorial Park garden/public space planting for evaluation by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful on criteria such as variety of plants, horticultural practices, use of space, maintenance, etc. and possible receipt of a COMMUNITY GREENING AWARD and recognition by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the annual Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit sponsored by the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

**MAINTENANCE**
The Borough of Edgewood performs routine maintenance in Edgewood Memorial Park. In conjunction with the Borough Advisory Committee (Civic Advisory and War Memorial, Chair, Edgewood Garden Club and the Edgewood Borough Council), the Edgewood Garden Club will continue to assume responsibility for the garden/public space plantings in Edgewood Memorial Park and to assist the Edgewood Borough Manager to refurbish and enhance the Edgewood Memorial Park setting.

**EXPENSE, EXPERTISE AND AVAILABLE FUNDS**

**REPAIR ESTIMATE:** Edgewood Memorial Park flagstone (slate) plaza……………..$5,945.00

**PURCHASE:** Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker…………………….……..235.00

Bloomfield Landscape Gardeners provided an estimate of $5,945.00 for restoration of the Edgewood Memorial Park flagstone (slate) plaza. Borough of Edgewood Manager, Kurt M. Ferguson and Larry Guerriero, Director, Borough of Edgewood, Department of Public Works, have agreed to provide their expertise in the final Spring of 2006 bidding process and to supervise the work on this project, expected to begin and to be completed in May of 2006. The Edgewood Borough Manager has agreed that the Borough of Edgewood will assume responsibility for a Spring of 2006 installation of a National Garden Clubs, Inc/Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in Edgewood Memorial Park.

As of October 1, 2005 the Edgewood Garden Club treasury had a balance of $9,371.30, the balance accumulated over several decades and the result of the hard work of all of the members of the Edgewood Garden Club. Funds in excess of the mandated minimum treasury balance of $7,000.00 are used routinely to cover club expenses that develop prior to preparation for the December Greens Sale event (historically the Edgewood Garden Club’s major fund raiser). Should the Principal Financial Group Foundation Civic Development Grant Program 2005-2007 award the Edgewood Garden Club the $3,000.00 amount it is requesting, the Edgewood Garden Club will expand its operating funds amount as it is required in order to match the $3,000.00 award amount, or any lesser award amount.