

Ancram Resilient Gardens & Farms Proposal for Ancram Town Hall Meadow

Ancram Resilient Gardens and Farms, an ad hoc affinity group, has been hosting monthly meetings, free and open to the public, since 2023. Our many guest expert speakers have inspired our attendees to commit more deeply to the ecological stewardship of their farms and gardens. We believe Ancram's natural assets have been enhanced through these individual/collective efforts. While we have hosted many offsite tours of farms and gardens we continue to be grateful to the Town of Ancram for giving us a space at Town Hall to host many of our meetings.

We would like to organize a volunteer-led project to create a native perennial meadow on the grounds of Town Hall that would be interwoven into the existing stand of little blue stem. Our goal is to engage the community in a project that would foster civic pride, and to create an immersive experience at a highly trafficked location that would illuminate how native plants contribute both beauty and biodiversity to our landscapes. Our hope is that the meadow will encourage our residents to create meadows and introduce native plantings on their own properties. Jamie Purinton has been advising us on a pro bono basis on this project. We are seeking Town funding to defray the initial expenses outlined below. We would hope to seek a grant, with the Town as fiscal sponsor, from the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley in their 2027 round of funding and from other grant-making organizations.

- We propose three new sections of improved meadow areas - one in each quadrant of existing meadow, moving north to south nearest the Town Hall building (the eastern edge of the existing meadow). (The map attached is a suggested plan, which we will sketch out in more detail and may revise depending on input.)
- Each of the three sections will be approximately 300 square feet in area, totaling 900 square feet of new meadow planting area.
- We will plan to rototill each section, mulch to approximately 1.5 inches deep, and plant plugs from locally sourced nurseries.
- Jamie has recommended 1.33 square feet per plug, totaling 676 native plugs for the three sections.
- We estimate that we will need approximately 6 cubic yards of organic, non-dyed mulch
- The newly planted areas will need irrigation on timers. We will plan to utilize the existing spout on the north side of the Town Hall building, burying the main connection hose under the lawn a few inches so that mowing can continue without obstruction. We can use simple garden sprinklers (for example: <https://www.gardeners.com/products/hi-rise-sprinkler>)
- We will recruit volunteers from the Gardens & Farms group and other Ancram residents for rototilling, mulching, and planting. (Gardens & Farms member Will Grover has offered to donate his rototiller and to do the rototilling.)
- Total estimated cost: Approximately \$2000-\$2500, based on quotes for mulching materials from Meltz or Hudson Valley Organics, and plugs from native nursery Flower Power (which we believe are the lowest cost available) and cost of sprinklers.
- NOT INCLUDED in these estimates is funding to create interpretative signage to encourage residents to get up close to the meadows and learn more about how native plants support biodiversity. We plan to chronicle the story of the meadow making in installments in the Gardens & Farms Newsletter, in the Ancram Town Hall newsletter and other local newspapers.

Costs/estimates:

Meltz Regular Reground and it is \$27 a cubic yard plus tax plus 150 delivery. Total Cost: \$324.96.

Organic mulch from Hudson Valley Organics: \$276 for 6 yards plus \$125 delivery plus tax Total Cost: \$423.08

Plugs: approximately \$1636 for 676 plugs. (That's taking the average of \$2.42 per plug from Flower Power, see below.)

The Flower Power Native Plugs Costs:

Achillea millefolium DP50 \$112 Available Now

Aster laevis DP50 \$112 Available 4/27/26

Aster novae-angliae DP50 \$112 Available 6/15/26

Aster umbellatus DP50 \$130 Available now

Monarda fistulosa LP50 \$130 Available 9/21/26

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium DP50 \$112 Available 6/29/26

Pycnanthemum virginanum DP50 \$112 Available 6/29/26

Rudbeckia hirta DP50 \$112 Available Now

Rudbeckia triloba DP50 \$112 Available 4/27/26

Solidago speciosa DP50 \$130 Available 6/29/26