



LGCF Award Application Cover Sheet (revised August 2022)

Award Number 10 Award Name Award of Commendation

Name of Club Applying for Award

Garden Gate Study Club District V

Number of members 26 Award Size Group NA S      M      L     

Contact Name Heather Carroll

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Address 249 Slip-Up Lane P.O. Box 695

Gilbert 71336  
City Zip

Is this project      New OR      Continuing from previous work?

Beginning date:      Expected completion date:      OR      Ongoing

Please complete each topic, if applicable on separate sheets. Use numbering as below when completing form.

1. Brief summary and objectives of project
2. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:
3. Project expenses and means of funding:
4. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:
5. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

ATTACH completed application. Unless noted in specific award description, all applications are limited to 3 single sided pages. (Plus this cover sheet). No report covers, notebooks, etc. allowed.

AWARD APPLICATION SUGGESTION:

- 1) PRINT FORM
- 2) Complete form and use as a cover sheet only. ANSWER QUESTIONS 1 THRU 5 using the fronts of three additional pages for a total of four pages.
- 3) Mail to proper awards chairman found in General Rules & List of Awards.

Garden Gate Study Club has the honor of presenting **Curtis Hilbun** for Award #10, the Award of Commendation, for his work in the fields of civic development, beautification and roadside development. In 2012, Curtis, a well-known local grower of tulips on his private property, proposed to the town of Winnsboro in Franklin Parish that a non-functioning fountain be repurposed as a tulip bed for the benefit of the community as well as those passing through the area. The fountain is located on Hwy. 15, a major north-south highway in northeast Louisiana. A Blue Star marker is located adjacent to the fountain. There is also a windmill located on the property.

Winnsboro Main Street, the Franklin Parish Tourism Commission, town officials, local businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and Garden Gate Study Club, as well as private citizens, supported the project with their funds and enthusiasm. Mr. Hilbun ordered the tulips from his suppliers in the Netherlands and in late winter 2013, he supervised the preparation of the bed and the planting of 2500 to 3000 bulbs to be in bloom for Easter. The first year was a success with the tulips providing a beautiful background for family photos.

Each year after that, Mr. Hilbun continued to order the tulip bulbs, prepare the beds, and plant the bulbs – as a community volunteer. Because the tulips were so well-received and anticipated each year, Mr. Hilbun propose that a summer planting of sunpatiens be added to the fountain display. Once again community support provided funds to purchase the plants and Mr. Hilbun provided the expertise and the sweat equity to make the planting a reality. Weekly watering was done by Mr. Hilbun throughout the summer season.

The spring and summer plantings were continued annually. The garden club donated concrete benches to accommodate the photographers and their subjects as the fountain plantings became even more popular. The windmill on the property was dismantled and rebuilt. Garden club members and men from Redemption House cleared the area of overgrown brush and trash trees and tidied up the area in general. Because of the upgrading of the windmill/fountain area, the adjoining Baldwin Park has been given a facelift and a new playground installed.

In the fall of 2021, Curtis added another planting – mums – funded by donations and grown by a local nursery. Because of the success of the plantings at the fountain location, similar plantings have been added at the Post Office Museum building in downtown Winnsboro.

Without the determination and enthusiasm of Curtis Hilbun, these areas would not have been transformed from the ordinary to the extraordinary – bringing beauty and pleasure to local citizens as well as those passing through.



Bed preparation



Tulip layout



Tulips in bloom



Photo gallery



Garden Club helpers



Maintenance by Curtis Hilbun



SunPatiens



Mums