



Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board FY 2025 Review

The Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board (ARPAB) and the Friends of the Ashuelot River Park Arboretum focused on several key areas throughout 2024:

1. Park Maintenance and Landscaping

- Addressed invasive species removal, particularly Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, and bittersweet.
- Managed and improved the rain garden, though additional remediation is needed for true functionality.
- Implemented pruning and tree maintenance projects with Bartlett Tree.
- Maintained and restored garden beds, and introduced native plant species.

2. Community Engagement and Events

- Hosted several successful public events, including Pollinator Palooza, Art in the Park, and the Monadnock Conservancy Anniversary event.
- Collaborated with community organizations such as Antioch University, Keene Public Library, and the Old Homestead Garden Club for educational and volunteer initiatives.

3. Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements

- Worked on the Bird Ecology Project, which involved creating birdhouses and developing QR-coded educational materials.
- Upgraded park signage, including plans for new kiosk signage and historical storytelling elements.
- Improved walkability and accessibility within the park, addressing pathway obstructions and better sign placement.

4. Budget and Financial Management

- Managed an annual budget of around \$19,000, including funding from donations.
- Allocated funds for tree maintenance, invasive plant control, and general park improvements in partnership with Bartlett Tree and Vegetation Control Service.
- Secured funding for upcoming projects, such as the pollinator garden and signage improvements.

5. Addressing Social and Safety Concerns

- Welcomed increased park usage; handled litter management and potential safety concerns with City staff.
- Discussed proper approaches to unhoused individuals/groups presence in the park while maintaining its intended recreational use.