

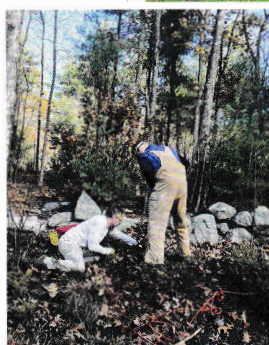
atkinson garden club

GARNERS PLANT AMERICA GRANT FOR DAFFODIL PROJECT

Atkinson Garden Club, Atkinson, N.H., garnered an NGC 2018 Plant America Grant that will enable it to continue in its efforts in an ongoing community beautification project in which seasonal plantings of daffodils adorn the area's vast byways. The ambitious project, which included the planting of 18,900 daffodil bulbs along Atkinson's section of the 44-mile Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Byway, first was launched in fall, 2016, by the Atkinson Garden Club. The project quickly drew the support of Atkinson's Byway Committee and other diverse public and private organizations and businesses. The byway, which also connects the towns of Atkinson, Hampstead, Chester, Auburn and Derry, celebrates and interprets the history of the original Boston-Haverhill-Concord stagecoach route. Noted New England poet Robert Frost drew inspiration from the scenic landscape along the route for many of his famous works. Atkinson Garden Club planted additional daffodil bulbs in fall, 2017. Club members also

▲ Yellow daffodils welcome spring on Memory Hill along the Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Byway. Photo by Perry Johnson.

Atkinson residents help plant daffodil bulbs at Atkinson Community Center during "Make a Difference Day." Photo by Hedi Shikes.



▲ Volunteers use a power auger to plant daffodils along the scenic byway in Atkinson. Photo by Linda Jette.



▲ Linda Jette, president, Atkinson Garden Club, and member of the Scenic Byway Committee, delights in the first-year blooms on a hill in Atkinson's town center. Amanda Sabga/Eagle-Tribune photo.

have approached leaders of other towns along the byway to participate in their own daffodil projects. ■