



Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

Last fall, the North Andover Garden Club was named a 2015 recipient of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts' Historic Preservation Grant for its proposal to restore a portion of the Historic Rolling Ridge Courtyard Garden.

In applying for the grant, the North Andover Garden Club proposed to revitalize a portion of the courtyard at Rolling Ridge in a manner which reflects the original design of Fletcher Steele. Steele practiced landscape architecture as a fine art and designed nearly five hundred gardens in the United States and Canada, but only 50 are still in existence.

Two of Steele's designs are National Landmarks: Naumkeag in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and the Camden Amphitheatre in Maine. As his first major commission, the gardens at Rolling Ridge are a rare example of Steele's work in eastern Massachusetts.

Over the winter, the North Andover Garden Club worked to devise a garden plan that would reflect Steele's vision but also take into account the now year round use of the garden.

With the help of Rogers Spring Hill located in Haverhill, Massachusetts and Uptown Landscaping located in Methuen, Massachusetts, the North Andover Garden Club installed and restored this special garden at Rolling Ridge during the month of May. The work is now complete and the public is welcome to view the courtyard.

The North Andover Garden club would like to thank the following individuals who put their time, effort and unique skills to work on this project:

Willow Cheeley
Steve McCarthy, McCarthy Landscaping
Maureen O'Brien, Landscape Preservation Consultant
Janis Porter, Porter Design Landscapes
Ken Roth, Rogers Spring Hill, Haverhill
Kevin Spicer, Uptown Landscaping, Methuen
Weston Nursery

To learn more, please visit the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center website
<http://www.rollingridge.org/>.