



Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge

is an example of 19th century metal-truss construction. It's pinned connections and narrow one-lane was designed before motor vehicles were a consideration.

The bridge was designed, manufactured and erected by New Haven engineer John E. Buddington, a graduate of Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1877. The bridge spans 185' and carries a 12' roadway suspended 18' over the Farmington River. During the flood of 1955, areas surrounding the bridge were flooded. Crossing was only by boat. Throughout the years, the bridge has been closed for repairs and temporary fix-ups including a four-month closure in 1977. In the 1980's it was obvious that something had to be done to rebuild or replace the structure. In March, 1983, after 28 years of debate, the taxpayers voted to approve \$400,000 of local funds for a new bridge. \$4.7 million of Federal money became available for the new bridge which opened in 1992. Residents worked to save the old bridge from demolition. The bridge then became used as a pedestrian and bicycle way and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. A government grant for 80% of the approximate \$575,000 required for reconstruction was acquired by Anlia Mielert. The restored bridge reopened in 1995.

In 1996 Dominique Avery formed a group to create community gardens around and on the bridge. The original four flower boxes were built by Simsbury High School students. Local nurseries donated the plants.

Today there are gardens at both ends of the bridge, 72 boxes, 32 hanging baskets and 14 border columns. Volunteer labor, sponsorships and donations support the flower bridge.

**Want to give your support to the continuance of the bridge?
You can put a donation in the box at the west end of the bridge OR...complete and return the form below.**

I am enclosing a donation to the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge

I am requesting information on how to sponsor a box or basket on Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge

printed name

street

signature

city, state, zip

phone

email

Please send this completed form to.....

Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge
P.O. Box 314
West Simsbury, CT 06092

If you wish to rent the bridge contact Simsbury Parks and Recreation at 860-658-3836



**Make your
Bridge visit**

COMPLETE!

EATI!



*Eat inside, outside,
order to pick up, take
out...gourmet to
"picnic at the bridge fare"*

