

# FIREFLIES

## AT THE BLESSING OF THE BAY MEADOW

**Project Lead:**  
Mystic River  
Watershed Association

**Landscape Architects:**  
Offshoots Inc.

**Artist:**  
Carolyn Lewenberg  
@Carolyncreative

**Horticultural Installation:**  
Offshoots Inc.

**Wing Artwork:**  
Healey School 6th Graders,  
led by Mikkel DellaCamera

**Landowner:**  
DCR

**Funders:**  
Somerville CPA,  
Solomon Foundation

### ABOUT THE ART

These firefly sculptures amplify our team's commitment to a more balanced relationship between humans and the natural ecosystems of the Mystic River. Fireflies are crucial to the ecology of New England's native fields, meadows, forests, and wetlands – and they experience habitat loss as these areas become degraded or vanish due to development and poor land use management. Transforming lawns into biodiverse habitats such as this native meadow will invite fireflies and other important pollinator species back to our community.

Local artist Carolyn Lewenberg designed, built and installed these 32 fireflies in collaboration with DCR, Mystic River Watershed Association, and Offshoots Productive Landscapes. The wings were fabricated by SRP signs, and were decorated with unique designs by Healey School 6th grade students (led by art teacher Mikkel DellaCamera).

### Fireflies have arrived!

The Blessing of the Bay Meadow presents 32 colorful firefly sculptures!

The sculptures are built of local recycled materials and aluminum wings, with original designs by young people from Somerville. Solar-powered LED lights allow the fireflies to light up the night sky!

The project was funded with Somerville Community Preservation Act funds. The firefly sculptures celebrate the Mystic River Watershed Association's mission to restore natural habitats – including here at the Blessing of the Bay pollinator meadow – so that the local fireflies can take back their rightful place in the night sky!

### ABOUT THE MEADOW

Offshoots Productive Landscapes is working on transforming the existing lawn at Blessing of the Bay into a native pollinator meadow. Native plant species grown from both seed and plugs will enhance the region's biodiversity and will provide an urban oasis for pollinators and other wildlife! Both the native meadow project and the firefly sculpture installation are ongoing collaborations between the partners below.



Follow the installation of the pollinator meadow on Instagram [@blessing\\_meadows](https://www.instagram.com/blessing_meadows)

Read more about efforts to improve the park at [mysticriver.org/blessingofthebay](https://mysticriver.org/blessingofthebay).

