

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Community Garden Planting Days Fast Facts

Where are the community gardens located?

Over 5,000 volunteers help to beautify our region by planting more than 350,000 flowers in 140 community gardens in 19 counties each spring. A complete listing of the communities where you can find gardens is on our website at: www.waterlandlife.org

Do you need to be an experienced gardener to participate?

No prior gardening experience is necessary! Children are welcome with adult supervision (planting day is not usually appropriate for children under eight).

When are the gardens planted?

Gardens are planted almost every day in May. If a group has a preference for a particular garden, they should contact us by March 15th at [\(412\)586-2324](tel:(412)586-2324) to discuss their interests.

What can you expect to be doing?

You will be planting and mulching annual flowers. The average garden takes approximately 4 hours to complete (not including transportation to and from the site.)

What should you bring with you to the planting?

The Conservancy typically provides the plants, general planting instructions, tools, plastic gloves (though you are welcome to bring your own), and safety vests for all volunteers. Plan to wear sturdy shoes (no sandals!) to protect your feet.

Plantings are done **rain or shine** so dress for the weather—layers if it is cool, rain gear if it is wet, sunscreen and hats for bright days.

You will get dirty! You may want to bring a hand towel, a change of shoes, and a bag for your dirty shoes.

You may also want to bring a snack and some water.

Some of the Benefits of Community Gardening

- Get a great workout!
- Make a *visible* difference in your community.
- Meet great people who also care about the quality of life in your area.
- Enjoy being outdoors with friends and family.
- Learn about good practices such as recycling organic wastes through composting and water conservation through mulching.
- Community gardens increase awareness of the value of greenspace, increase volunteerism, and increase commitment by citizens to protect the quality of the environment.

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