



Gardener Volunteer Description

Collier County Parks & Recreation Garden Volunteer Program

A collaborative environment between the Maintenance Department and Garden Volunteers that promotes the sharing of knowledge and resource to support the beautifying of parks and natural areas. Create, maintain garden spaces in a manner that is good for the environment, are sustainable, encourages pollinators, and is accessible by the public. Provide activities that will educate the gardeners, park employees, and the community.

Parks & Rec Mission Statement

Healthy Lifestyles
Strengthen the Community
Enrich the Economy
Protect & Sustain the Environment

Garden Program Objectives

Physical exercise
Accessibility, community events
Awareness, increase visitors
Florida Friendly Landscaping, Remove Invasives

County Staff:

Maintenance Superintendent, Supervisors, Lead Crew, Maintenance Staff
Volunteer Coordinator (County Employee)

Volunteer Organizational Chart:

Garden Program Lead (Volunteer)
Specialists: Marketing, Education
Garden Lead (Volunteer)
Gardener (Volunteer)

Garden Volunteer Program Description:

In conjunction with County Staff, the Garden Program Lead establishes the design and guidelines for each park. Volunteer Gardeners will be recruited for each park through the County's Volunteer Outreach programs. Garden Program Lead will work with Volunteer Gardeners to rehabilitate, install gardens, and work out maintenance routines. Garden Program Lead to recruit a Garden Lead(s) and work with them to transition maintenance responsibilities.

Garden Program Lead to support all volunteers through open honest communication of expectations, Park & Rec policies, and provide plant/garden educational materials and opportunities.

General Duties:

Work with Lead Gardener and or Maintenance Staff to maintain annual and perennial flower gardens. All volunteers should be willing to assist with planting, watering, weeding, deadheading, mulching, and other garden activities.

Be able-bodied, and willing to learn, willing to take guidance, enjoy being outdoors, Volunteers are always expected to dress appropriately for outdoor work and carry water with them. Volunteers must be prepared for exposure to heat and insects.

1. Gardener

- a. Orientation Meeting specific to the Garden
 - i. Parks & Rec Mission Statement
 - ii. Garden Guiding Principles and Best Practices
 - iii. Plants List / benefits & care instructions
 - iv. Weed List / common to the area and preferred control methods
 - v. Access to Shared Documents
- b. Tools provided if desired (gloves, hand trowel, clippers, debris bucket, debris trash bags)
- c. Know when the lead will be on site
- d. Opportunities to work independently
- e. Safety Training Course:
 - i. First Aid
 - ii. CPR