



# 2022-2024 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

## ENVIRONMENT



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The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world’s resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE: SPARKLING SEEDS, BRILLIANT BUTTERFLIES, GLAMOROUS GARDEN GLOVES



Community Connection Initiatives are designed to answer the need to build awareness and recognition of who GFWC volunteers are, what the organization accomplishes, and making GFWC recognizable in local communities. This branding effort assists in giving GFWC a more human side, which will help to build your recognition and grow your membership.

The Environment Community Connection Initiative encourages clubs to provide green spaces in urban areas, give growers without land of their own a place to work, and promote a real sense of community. Enrich your community by partnering with local businesses, other community groups, and/or schools to plan, develop, and grow a community garden. Look toward local gardening companies to help sponsor or donate. Enlist the help of master gardeners, landscape architects, or garden clubs to assist with designing the best garden for your community using native plants, including the needs of pollinators, and providing water and shelter.

Use the community garden as an outdoor garden learning center and teach students about the benefits of gardening. Work with local nursing homes and assisted living facilities to bring some sunshine into the lives of our more experienced generations.

Don those gloves to help your seeds sprout into a community garden that brings benefits to many. Check out the Community Garden Fundraising link in Resources.

### Affiliate Organizations

(Confirmed as of date of printing)

Depending on club intent, projects/programs from these GFWC Affiliate Organizations could be reported here as well:



### Resource Organizations

(Located in the Resources Area of the Club Manual.)

**“THE ENVIRONMENT IS WHERE WE ALL MEET; WHERE WE ALL HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST; IT IS THE ONE THING ALL OF US SHARE.” – LADY BIRD JOHNSON**

- Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive ten free trees to plant or donate ten trees to be planted in a threatened rain forest or one of our National Forests.
- Save trees by initiating a “Go Paperless” campaign.
- Educate members on the dangers of poor air quality, which is the number one cause of premature death around the world.
- Support wetland conservation and learn how wetlands are a deterrent to both flooding and drought.
- Organize a household hazardous waste collection with your local services, to ensure these dangerous materials are disposed of properly.
- Educate club and community members about the importance of pollinators and how to create healthy habitats where they can thrive.
- Provide a program for club and community members that highlights the best native plants for food and cover.
- Advocate for and support regulations that limit light pollution, which is dangerous to nocturnal wildlife and disruptive to ecosystems.
- Learn about ocean wildlife in peril, such as sea turtles and manatees, and organize volunteer or fundraising opportunities to help protect these species.
- Offer a workshop on building birdhouses and provide information on bird species, their characteristics and behaviors, and their varying habitat requirements.
- Commemorate America Recycles Day (November 15), a program of Keep America Beautiful, by organizing a special event.
- Coordinate a children’s poster contest on recycling.
- Hold a community workshop on sustainable gardening.
- Hold a club yard sale to repurpose gently used items and donate the proceeds to various environmental charities.
- Plan a clean-up day in the community by coordinating groups of volunteers to clean eyesore areas and properly discard the waste.
- Sponsor a “Yard of the Month” or other monthly beautification contest that recognizes community enhancement.
- Establish a hiking or biking trail in the community or maintain an existing trail, encouraging people to learn more about nature and enjoy the outdoors.
- Organize a local garden tour and donate the proceeds to a community garden or conservation project.
- And many more provided in Club Manual.

(This list is a brief offering of project ideas. Please visit Club Manual for other grassroots projects and/or programs as well as those with Affiliate Organizations or Resources.)