



Photo by Scott Casper

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Share your time & talents with 'The Gardens' volunteer community.

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Discover the Gardens' plants, pollinators, art, and garden environments in diverse ways.

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#### GALA IN THE GARDENS

Pictures & highlights of the Gala held in September.

# Volunteer Opportunities

Share your time & talents with the volunteer community at 'The Gardens'.



Come, learn, and experience the wonder of 'The Gardens at Yanney Park' as a volunteer this spring. Volunteering at 'The Gardens' will be a wonderful way to contribute to the community, form new friendships, learn new skills, and HAVE FUN! Best of all you can choose the activities that fit your interest and abilities. Interested volunteers will receive training, staff support, related volunteer emails, and recognition.

Volunteer opportunities at 'The Gardens' include:

Horticultural Assistant - help with gardening tasks outside in the gardens or in the greenhouse.

Educational Assistant - setup and clean up of programs, supply preparation, assist in leading programs & individuals.

Tour Guides - Guide, inform, and answer questions for groups visiting the gardens.

Photographers - Take seasonal pictures of the gardens' plants, pollinators, art, and events for 'The Gardens' newsletters, emails, and social media.

Special Events Volunteer - Assist with special events.

Regardless of the time commitment or the type of volunteer opportunity you choose, every type of volunteer provides a rich and enjoyable experience to all of the parks' visitors. All Volunteers are required to submit a volunteer application with a liability waiver, complete a background check form, & complete new volunteer orientation. For additional volunteering information go to The Gardens' [Volunteer Page](#).

## Garden Gab at Yanney Park



Photo by Scott Casper

These weekly "Hands On Learning" sessions are lead by KPR staff & volunteers. Different gardening lessons will be covered each week throughout the growing season.

Depending on 15-20 minute lesson, skills practice and volunteer time will follow in either The Gardens, Kellaway Gardens, or the rest of Yanney Park.

Individuals and groups attending are encouraged to wear proper garden clothing which should include gloves, knee pads, and other personal safety equipment. Light snack and all garden tools will be provided.

Garden Gab will be held at 9 am on Tuesdays & Thursdays at The Gardens starting April 19, 2022.

# Creating Educational Programs for 'The Gardens'

How to give each visitor an opportunity to learn something new about plants, pollinators, and garden environments.

**L**earning opportunities for all ages, abilities, and attention spans. Educational programming falls into three categories: signage, programs, and individual discovery. Each learning category is being developed by staff. The existing signage includes plant identification tags and each garden's informational sign. In the future, 'Garden Happening' information will be added to each garden. These changeable signs will display seasonal information on plants, pollinators & natural systems with quick bullet points, images, and KPR website links for details.

Program learning will start in three forms: Scheduled programs like the **'Plant Maintenance' class to be held on May 4th at Noon**. The class will touch on watering, fertilizing, weed prevention, and pruning of perennial and annual plants.

Individual Discovery will guide an individual to discover the garden at their own pace.



Discovery learning is still evolving but could look like a scavenger hunt kit for kids of all ages.

Contact Coelette Gruber at [cgruber@kearneygov.org](mailto:cgruber@kearneygov.org) to register for a class or with learning opportunities/ideas for these programs.

## How to Become a Volunteer

There are two types of volunteers - Event and Seasonal volunteers. Event volunteers can only sign up for events like The Big Dig. Whereas, Seasonal volunteers can sign up for both event and seasonal volunteer opportunities like Garden Gab and educational programs.

There are two steps to becoming a volunteer:

1. You apply to be a volunteer. The volunteer application only needs to be filled out once as long as they volunteer once a year.
2. You sign up for a volunteer activity.

The event volunteer application is short and requires volunteer to sign

a liability waiver.

Seasonal Volunteers have to complete a more in depth application which includes a liability waiver, a background check, and volunteer orientation.

For more information on applying to be a volunteer go to The Gardens' [Volunteer Page](#).

# Gala in the Gardens at Yanney Heritage Park

'The Gardens at Yanney Park' was celebrated in September.



**T**he completion of the first phase of 'The Gardens at Yanney Park' were celebrated with a gala in the gardens at the end of September. The hard work of the Yanney Heritage Park Foundation Board, Kearney Area Community Foundation Staff, and Kearney Park and Recreation Staff was appreciated with an extraordinary evening

was delivered full of entertainment, food, and fun within the park. Thanks to the generous donors and sponsors, \$200,000 was raised at the event for the future of 'The Gardens at Yanney Park'. Come enjoy the latest addition to Yanney Heritage Park.

Stay tuned for updates on the next phases by following the Yanney Heritage Park Foundation on Facebook: @YanneyPark

## Next Issue...

Information on the first annual 'The Big Dig' event at The Gardens. This event invites the public to help install annual plants.

Full volunteering and educational program schedules.