

Simpson Garden Park Volunteer Opportunities 2010

Simpson Garden Park is the newest Bowling Green City Park, located at the corner of Conneaut Ave. and Wintergarden Rd. It is an 11-acre park that is growing into a public garden, thanks to a \$700,000 fundraising campaign. To ensure that the garden runs smoothly, the Parks and Recreation Department has engaged dozens of eager garden volunteers. But we need more good green thumbs to grow this garden.

Naturalists/Interpreters – We are working on a plan for the entire garden that will tie education together with signage, brochures, docent tours, maps, etc and unify that effort all through the gardens. If you'd like to help with this big project, call Michelle Grigore at 419-354-6224 or email: mgrigore@bgohio.org. It's a great chance to see how an interpretive plan is created for a new site.

Contact Chris Gajewicz (cgajewicz@bgohio.org) at 419-353-0301 to volunteer for the following:

Garden Leaders- Garden Leaders adopt a garden and then coordinate work projects, perform weekly checks, create work orders and irrigation change sheets, and provide assistance in budgeting for future plantings or additions to their garden. Volunteers and park staff assist Garden Leaders.

Record Keeping- Perfect for someone whose gardening mobility isn't what it used to be. Organize the records of each garden, including planting plans, plant tags, photos of the garden and any memorials or donated material in the garden. Office and filing space provided at Simpson Garden Park. May also wish to assist with creating lists of plant identification signs needed for the gardens.

Signage/Graphics- Several volunteers needed in this area: **Photography Leader, Photographers** and **Signage Assistants**. The Signage Leader oversees the creation of plant identification labels and memorial signage in the garden, including using the garden's engraving machine. Signage assistants are needed to help create the list of signs and place signs and straighten signs in the garden. The Photography Leader will coordinate the visual record of each garden through the season. Photos will be kept by year in the record files to assist in evaluating the garden. Photographers will assist the Photo Leader in taking digital images of the garden for storage on a CD and printing out hard copies for the files.

Garden installation and maintenance – Parks and Recreation staff are seeking garden volunteers for all aspects of garden installation and maintenance including: spring edging, mulching, weeding, planting, dead-heading, pinching/pruning, spot watering, plant division and checking irrigation systems. Weekly work projects will be held. We are particularly seeking groups of gardeners who might want to adopt a garden. Garden Leaders will provide guidance and Park Staff provide the tools, materials and assistance. There are several new gardens planned for 2008, so you can get experience in installing gardens, too.

Education – Outreach to the visitors, school groups, homeowners, and botanists is a vital part of Simpson Garden Park. Now that the first gardens are in place, we have need for volunteer **Docents** (to guide tours), **Instructors** (for adult education programs) and **Garden Educators** (to lead hands-on programs in the Children’s Discovery Garden). An **Education Leader** is also being sought to help Park Staff coordinate this new focus for the department.

Master Gardener Volunteer opportunities for BG Parks and Recreation locations beyond Simpson Garden Park

Please contact Cinda Stutzman, 419-353-0301 or cinda.stutzman@bgohio.org
Many of these projects can be conducted at your leisure once we have had an initial meeting to discuss the details of the project. Please call or e-mail me with your name and contact information, which projects you are interested assisting with and when you are available.

Community Center

A Garden Leader is being sought for the ornamental beds around the new Community Center. Garden volunteers are also needed for general care and maintenance including:
March – Clean up day to be scheduled based on volunteer interest. Includes trimming daylilies, roses throughout landscaping and trimming wildlife plants in nature window area. Throughout summer – Weeding

Wintergarden/St. John’s Nature Preserve

Work with Park Staff on native prairies, savannas and wildflower gardens including:
April – Weeding garlic mustard
May (and possibly Sept) – Assisting with transplanting programs with area youth
Throughout summer – Weeding and watering in nature center landscaping
June, July and August – Watering transplants in the field
September and October – Seed collecting

City Park

There are five ornamental beds at City Park that need tender loving care from volunteer gardeners. A Garden Leader is being sought for City Park to help coordinate the work projects on the site. Gardening volunteers will assist with annual planting, refurbishing the older garden perennials and shrubs, pruning, watering, weeding and general care.

Office/Simpson Building

We need folks who can help with mailings and brochure development if you like working indoors. You can contact Michelle Grigore at 419-354-6224 for more information.