



# CONSERVATION

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

 Visit [www.GFWC.org/ClubManual](http://www.GFWC.org/ClubManual) for updates and more information.

### OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE AMONG OUR MOST PRECIOUS TREASURES.

The GFWC Conservation Community Service Program is designed for members to gain an appreciation for our environment. Through preservation, maintenance, and restoration of our natural resources, it strives to educate members about the importance of beautifying our communities; preserving, maintaining, and restoring natural resources; and stimulating citizen action to address these concerns. Our natural resources include, but are not limited to, water, trees, plants, air, land, and wildlife.

Incorporate any and all of these topics into your conservation plans:

- Recycling
- Soil Conservation
- Noxious Weeds
- Air and Water Quality
- Waste Handling
- Natural Resource Restoration
- Land Maintenance
- Tree Planting
- Beautification
- Wildlife Protection
- Proper Care for Domesticated Animals
- Food Sources
- Community Gardens
- Preserving existing waterways

Program ideas are endless. Below is a comprehensive list of ideas on how clubs may support the Conservation Community Service Program.

#### IDEAS

- Investigate and support local conservation ordinances and policies. Share this information with others in your community.
- Learn about local programs available for member and club participation.
- Educate young people about the importance of natural resources.
- Invite local experts to speak at club meetings.



### 2014-2016 CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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The **GFWC Boulder Valley Woman's Club** (Colorado) adopted a section of Coal Creek Trail, learned about invasive plants, cut down weeds, and picked up trash. A sign at the trailhead stated that this section of trail was adopted by a GFWC club.



Clubs donated butterfly kits to first grade classes so they could learn about the life cycle of a beautiful insect. Fun events can be scheduled around the release of the butterflies.

- Write op-ed pieces, letters to the editor, and press releases about important conservation issues in your community and submit them to your local media.
- Advocate for improved recycling and conservation programs.
- Plant native species for beautification and restoration of land and waterways.
- Clean up along roadways, waterways, and trails.
- Implement beautification projects at parks, cemeteries, hospitals, shelters, and other community gathering places.
- Donate funds for reforestation plans and get involved with tree planting programs.
- Work to eradicate non-native invasive species.
- Organize curbside recycling programs if none exist.
- Create hazardous product disposal and/or recycling programs for household items such as paint, batteries, electronics, and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Work with local officials and organizations to create proper depositories for unused medicine and needles.
- Preserve natural habitats to protect wildlife.
- Implement energy conservation practices in your clubhouse, home, office, and public buildings.
- Provide local shelters and sanctuaries needed items for animal rehabilitation and well being.
- Create community gardens to promote self sufficiency.
- ADvocate and investigate local food and where it comes from.
- Advocate for *Adopt A Garden* in your community.



We are currently working on developing partnerships with organizations whose missions and scope of work are germane to GFWC. Look for updates from the GFWC Conservation Community Service Program Chairman, in *News & Notes*, *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, and online at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org).

## **GFWC PARTNERSHIPS**

GFWC partners are the organizations listed with whom GFWC has established a formal relationship and mutual understanding. Our partners offer unique and customized services: materials, speakers, kits, and/or additional information specifically designed for GFWC clubs. They are aware of GFWC clubs' specific needs, our organizational structure, and have a signed Memorandum of Understanding with GFWC. GFWC partners will assist in monitoring the donations generated by GFWC members.



### **ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES**

Alliance for Community Trees  
4603 Calvert Road  
College Park, MD 20740  
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Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) is a national nonprofit organization founded to improve the environment where more than 90 percent of America's population lives—cities, towns, and metropolitan areas. In 1993, its founders shared a vision of a verdant, healthy, functioning urban environment supported by a broad base of community residents who value trees as part of their community's infrastructure.



Today, ACTrees is a growing national network of more than 250 member and program partner organizations. These organizations are involved in community greening, stewardship of their community trees, public environmental education, policymaking, and other activities which engage residents in growing and sustaining tree canopy, and our urban groves and forests.

Consider organizing at the local or state level around one of ACTrees national programs, **National NeighborWoods™ Month**. This program is a campaign to raise national awareness of the value of trees and help residents come together every October to plant trees in their neighborhoods. Whether on school grounds, river ways, median strips, and parks, or on private land, a grove of trees—even a single tree can improve the health and well-being of residents. Trees contribute to the value of homes, attract visitors to retail settings, shade park visitors and children at play in their schoolyards, provide fresh air, filter storm water run-off, and inspire feelings of happiness. Trees really are the answer to many concerns!

Nationwide, local ACTrees member organizations and volunteers have already planted over 15 million trees. ACTrees looks forward to increasing that number through local, regional, and national collaboration of its member organizations and GFWC clubs. Our Conservation Community Service Program Partnership will support members' interest in urban and community forestry through collaboration with ACTrees member organizations.

Visit [www.ACTrees.org](http://www.ACTrees.org) to learn more. To access ACTrees member organizations and locations, visit [www.ACTrees.org/about-us/members/member-organizations/](http://www.ACTrees.org/about-us/members/member-organizations/). Sign-up to receive the e-Newsletter, and watch *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* for more information about our partnership.

## GFWC COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

All programs and projects that relate to Conservation should be reported here, whether they are club initiated, involve other members of the community, other organizations or work with any GFWC partners.

## AWARDS

GFWC recognizes State Federations for outstanding projects and clubs for creative projects in implementing effective Conservation Community Service Program projects as follows:

- Certificates to one State Federation in each membership category
- \$50 award to one club in the nation for project creativity

Award winners will be determined by entries into the Awards Program. Each State Federation may submit one State Award Cover Sheet and one Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet for the Conservation Community Service Program projects. Clubs do not submit entries directly to GFWC.



### **GFWC Viera Woman's Club, Inc.** (State)

participated in the National Neighbor Woods Month Event by planting 40 trees at a local elementary school that produced flowers and berries for the birds. They cared for Red Mangrove seedlings which were later planted by community volunteers at the Brevard Zoo.



For additional resources and information, go to [www.GFWC.org/ClubManual](http://www.GFWC.org/ClubManual). Refer to the Reporting section of the *Club Manual* for more information, including the Award Entry Cover Sheet guidelines.

