



NATIONAL PLANTING DAY

K A B . O R G

Create More Beauty: Planting Flowers, Bulbs and Trees

Held annually the first Saturday after Labor Day (Sept. 8, 2018), [National Planting Day](#) kicks off the fall planting season for Keep America Beautiful's network of more than 600 affiliates and other community partners with events taking place through October.

Interested in conducting your own planting and greening event in your community?

Check out the ideas listed and find inspiration by learning more about projects implemented by Keep America Beautiful affiliates nationwide at kab.org/news-info/affiliate-updates.

Find a local Keep America Beautiful affiliate at kab.org/volunteer.

PLANTING FLOWERS, BULBS AND TREES

Research Locations

Meet with local government entities (parks and recreation, public works, and/or zoning), downtown organizations, business improvement districts, schools, and neighborhood associations to determine areas of need. Investigate proposed site(s). Is it in full sun, part sun, or shade? Does the soil drain well? Is there water infrastructure nearby so you can water the newly planted tree(s), shrubs(s), plants and/or bulbs?

Create a Plan

Create a list of plants appropriate for your [hardiness zone](#) and the growing conditions you've determined exist for your site. Contact a local nursery, landscape architect, [Lowe's Garden Center](#), local Master Gardeners or Extension offices. With the plan in place ask local business owners to support the project. Ask them to donate supplies (flowers, bulbs, paint and brushes, etc.) and to provide window space for flyers announcing your program. Be sure to publicize the support you receive from local businesses.

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Develop a plan for the sustainability of your plantings/gardens. There are resources in your community that may be of help with tasks designed to help your new plantings thrive (watering, weeding, pruning). Some of these resources include:

- Nearby stores/businesses
- Local government
- Community groups (Scouts, garden clubs, neighborhood groups, or other civic organizations)
- School groups
- Individuals

Another way to help insure sustainability is to engage the immediate community that will benefit from the beginning stage. Having their buy-in and participation will help instill ownership and pride in the work, and can help lead to increased participation in activities to sustain the garden.

Contact local utility companies to mark all water, electric, gas, cable and/or fiber optic underground lines. Prepare for planting day by determining if the work may be done by volunteers with shovels and hand tools or if you will need motorized equipment such as tillers, backhoes for large trees or other similar equipment. You may want to have gloves, hand tools and a hose available.

We encourage the use of native plants as well as pollinators. Be sure to use plant items that are appropriate for your region. Ask local experts or research plants at sites including:

- [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)
- [Pollinator Partnership](#)
- [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation](#)

Enlist Volunteers

Organizing a National Planting Day or other beautification project may offer an opportunity to expand volunteers to members of Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners, nursery employees and gardening enthusiasts. You may want to limit the number of volunteers as you don't want plants damaged by having too many people walking around the site.

Maintenance

After planting, check on your plantings regularly and water if necessary. Newly planted trees should be watered weekly if nature doesn't provide.

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Tools & Safety Equipment

Tools and safety equipment that you and your volunteers will find useful include:

- Rakes (steel & leaf)
- Shovels (flat & round tipped)
- Hoes
- Pitchforks
- Hand trowels
- Hand cultivators
- Pruners/loppers
- Wheelbarrows/gardening carts
- Hose/spray nozzle
- Gardening gloves
- Goggles

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