



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

The Ginter Urban Gardener Program

The Ginter Urban Gardener program is a 12-week training program that teaches sustainable horticulture, urban greening and community building within urban areas. The program is designed to provide citizens with the skills necessary to increase the number of sustainable urban green spaces supported by the community. The increase of green space in urban areas is documented to increase resident's pride of place, stimulate economic vitality and provide healthy, engaging spaces where communities come together and for shared social experiences.

The Ginter Urban Gardener training takes place at central and accessible locations throughout the neighborhoods of Richmond VA. Partner organizations provide space for in-classroom training; subsequent hands-on service learning experiences either a) take place at the same location or b) within close proximity to the training location.

Classes are small (12 – 16) to allow for an optimal experiential learning environment. In-classroom sessions are 3 hours long and equal parts presentation, discussion, and group activity to build community among trainees. Subsequent hands-on service learning components take place on Saturdays in 3 hour increments. Total hours for the training: 72 learning hours

Program FAQ

Who should apply?

Must be 18 years old in order to apply

When does the program begin and end?

Fall Cohort August 8th – October 24th

What does it cost to enroll?

The registration fee is 150\$

Is there any financial assistance available?

Yes!

Program Objectives

- Examine the history and importance of sustainable horticulture/agriculture.
- Demonstrate an understanding of community project management and volunteer coordination
- Develop practical urban greening skills necessary for cultivation of greenspaces, sustainable urban gardens and community spaces for beautification and community wellness
- Demonstrate an understanding of beautification, its practicality, health and social importance.
- Determine actions to sustain urban greening efforts in the community.



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Cultivating Community through Urban Gardening

Sustainable Plants:

- Week 1: Unpacking the 2010 Census: Concentrated Poverty in the City of Richmond
- Week 2: Sustainable Plants: Healthy Soils and Soil Management
- Week 3: Sustainable Plants: The Life of Plants: Plant Science, Botany and Plant Pathology
- Week 4: Living in a Food Desert: Health Disparity and Food Access in Richmond VA

Sustainable Places:

- Week 5: What is Place-making?
- Week 6: Start With Self: Embracing Authenticity & Inclusion in Community Work
- Week 7: The Benefits of Urban Greening & Beautification
- Week 8: Urban Landscape & Garden Design

Sustainable People:

- Week 9: Asset Based Community Development: Who is in the Room
- Week 10: Community Trust-building: Culturally Relevant Dialogue & Group Facilitation
- Week 11: Building Community Bridges: Developing Teams & Strategies for Change
- Week 12: Community Beautification Project Management & Volunteer Coordination

Urban Greening Hands On Service Learning :

- Week 1: Beautiful RVA: Urban Garden & Greenspace Tour
- Week 2: Healthy Soils: Urban Soils; Work Arouns and Bio-Remediation
- Week 3: Healthy Soils: Managing Soil Fertility and Bio-Diversification
- Week 4: Plant Propagation: Starting Seeds, Transplanting & Plant Cuttings
- Week 5: Urban Tree Stewardship; Selecting, Planting, Watering and Pruning
- Week 6: Pest Management: Insects; Weed Control & Invasive Identification
- Week 7: Sustainable Landscaping: Native Plants, Water Conservation, Mulching
- Week 8: Urban Garden Design: Site Assessment; Designing Layout; Plant Selection,
- Week 9: Edible Landscaping: Bio-Intensive Urban Gardening, Vineyards and Orchards
- Week 10: Green Space Makeover: Ginter Urban Gardener Beautification Planning
- Week 11: Green Space Makeover: Ginter Urban Gardener Beautification Designing
- Week 12: Green Space Makeover: Ginter Urban Gardener Beautification Implementation