



Volunteering with **Lehigh Gap Nature Center**

Garden Group



Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is seeking **Garden Group volunteers** to help us maintain our native habitat gardens. Do you enjoy gardening or working outdoors? As a Garden Group volunteer, you will have the opportunity to contribute these skills toward LGNC's ongoing conservation efforts!

Garden Group Role at a Glance:

Responsible for: Maintaining native habitat gardens; assisting with other garden-related activities

Report to: Anna Costello, Office Administrator
(anna.costello@lgnc.org | 610-760-8889)

Time Commitment: 1-3 hours/week as available, primarily spring through fall

About LGNC

Nestled within the Kittatinny Ridge alongside the Lehigh River, Lehigh Gap Nature Center is a member-supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit environmental education center and wildlife refuge. LGNC is the *first and only nature center in the U.S. created from a federal Superfund site*. When LGNC was founded in 2002, much of the mountainside in our surrounding area was barren and lifeless, scarred by decades of industrial pollution. LGNC's efforts to revegetate several hundred acres of this former 'moonscape' have not only successfully restored life to the mountain, but they have also established a community resource that is now enjoyed by thousands of visitors annually. Today, the restored site is home to a 756-acre wildlife refuge featuring hundreds of native species, 13 miles of trails, and endless opportunities for learning, ecological research, and outdoor recreation. Visit lgnc.org to learn more.

Volunteering with the Garden Group

LGNC's Osprey House visitor center and refuge feature extensive habitat gardens containing a diversity of native plant species. In addition to providing habitat and beauty, these gardens serve to educate visitors on the importance of native plants and demonstrate methods to incorporate them into a backyard landscape. Since the gardens were first established, Garden Group volunteers have played an active role in their planning, design, and ongoing maintenance.

Responsibilities of the Garden Group

Garden Group volunteers are responsible for the following in support of LGNC's native habitat gardens and native plant outreach:

- Working with LGNC staff to prioritize garden projects and assess maintenance needs

- Maintaining LGNC’s native habitat gardens and arboretum, including, but not limited to, weeding, pruning, planting, and watering
- Preparing for LGNC’s annual native plant sale and assisting with the sale
- Supporting other native plant-related projects and outreach efforts

Garden Group Leadership

The Garden Group is coordinated by LGNC’s Office Administrator, Anna Costello. Garden Group volunteers should contact Anna directly at 610-760-8889 or anna.costello@lgnc.org with any questions or concerns.

Training and Orientation

At the start of each scheduled Garden Group meeting work day, all volunteers are briefed on the day’s goals. LGNC provides any training or equipment needed for the day’s tasks. Volunteers are welcome to bring a personal pair of work gloves and pruners if preferred.

Group planning meetings/potluck lunches are generally held at least twice per year to discuss projects and priorities and to address questions or concerns.

Time Commitment

The Garden Group is active April through October. Garden Group volunteers may volunteer as often or as little as they are available.

If the weather permits, three-hour work days are scheduled weekly or biweekly on a rotating Monday through Friday schedule. Garden Group volunteers also have opportunities to support occasional weekend activities, including the spring cleanup and native plant sale.

Clearances

In accordance with Pennsylvania Act 153 (Child Protective Services Law), all LGNC volunteers must complete free criminal background checks prior to volunteering. Clearances must be renewed every 60 months. Clearances must be renewed every 60 months.