

# GARDENS

*Earth Day 2020  
Menu of Engagement*



Botanical gardens are meditative sites where visitors take time to get away from daily hassles and appreciate the marvelous diversity of plants. They are also unique in providing a place for the public to learn and enjoy at the same time. Greenskeepers can hold various tours and educational events to help communities raise environmental consciousness. For **Earth Day's 50th anniversary**, utilize your gardens to engage your community in a variety of fun, educational and impactful learning opportunities!

## 2020 Program Engagement Ideas

### Global Teach-In

The first Earth Day hosted a nationwide [teach-in](#) for communities to learn about and discuss local environmental issues. Host an event on a 2020 campaign or Earth Challenge topic:

- Biodiversity loss
- Plastic Pollution
- Food Waste
- Food Security
- Insect Population
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Local climate change impacts
- Show environmental documentaries and provide a panel discussion or Q&A
- Host a speaker series or panel discussion on local environmental issues

### Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for global citizens to contribute to valuable scientific research. Gardens can support [Earth Challenge](#) by serving as a community hub for people to access and learn about Earth Challenge data and local environmental issues.

- Serve as an Earth Challenge site, where people can come to with Earth Challenge (citizen science) questions
- Provide garden spaces and resources to collect, enter and review data
- Help participants with data analysis
- Organize Earth Challenge data collection days and events

**Register your event at [EarthDay.org](#)**

## Artists for the Earth

[Art is a powerful tool](#) to communicate messages, trigger emotions and inspire action! Invite your community to participate in one of these activities;

- Host an art exhibition with an opening reception
- Invite artists to decorate the garden for holidays
- Hold an Earth Day poster design contest for local schools
- Create a natural materials art workshop
- Host an interactive art workshop to dry plants or use chlorophyll to paint
- Practice yoga and embrace the creation of natural beauty

## Food and Climate

Only one thing can make communities coming together to learn even more enticing...[FOOD!](#) Host an event to bring people together to learn about the impacts of our food system and learn about delicious plant-based alternatives.

- Host a teach-in on pollination and offer delicious local honey tasting
- Organize a plant-based potluck
- Instruct a cooking or baking lesson using garden fresh produce
- Provide composting bins and host a composting workshop
- Present a workshop on container gardening for local produce

## Protect Our Species

[Abundant plant and animal diversity](#) are vital for healthy and balanced ecosystems! Use your garden to connect people with their local species and bring awareness to biodiversity loss around the world.

- Create special displays of local species and provide planting workshops
- Install signage educating visitors on threats to plant health
- Host a teach-in on how local plant and animal species rely on each other
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use
- Maintain a seed bank for community members to use
- Create pollinator and wildlife friendly garden spaces

## End Plastic Pollution

[Plastic](#) is a huge part of our daily lives, but there are tons of great alternatives to use to help the planet! Gardens can host partners for the [Great Global Cleanup](#).

- Host an event for the Great Global Cleanup
- Present a teach-in about the impacts of plastic pollution
- Host a plastic waste repurposing or crafts workshop
- Install signage on the harmful effects of plastic on ecosystems
- Provide recycling bins
- Find alternatives to single use plastic items in use at your facility

**Register your event at [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org)**