



## Providing Assistance to the Gardeners

Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas developed this program to support local groups who want to enhance their neighborhoods, encourage interaction between neighbors and provide a catalyst for healthy activity and good nutrition. You can support the gardeners by offering your skills and resources. No gardening experience is necessary to become a regular garden member or an at-large volunteer. Here are some areas in which gardeners seek your help.

1. **Mentors:** commit to being an observer and confidant. Mentors provide more emotional support than labor and knowledge combined.
2. **Programming research:** assessing needs/wants of community garden group.
3. **Writers:** if you're more comfortable facing a computer than a pile of compost, share your ability to make flyers, signs and schedules for a garden.
4. **Site plans:** scaled layout and measurements of existing site and features.
5. **Garden plans:** CADD design of garden spaces, arrangement of plantings and features based on programming assessment.
6. **Carpenters:** participation in the construction of raised beds, decks, arbors, pergolas, planter boxes, trellises and signage.
7. **Feature design:** design of benches, gazebos, birdhouses, signage, etc. for specific garden spaces, design of hardscape to be affordable, functional, aesthetic and vernacular to the site.
8. **Detail drawings:** construction details and instructions for inexperienced volunteers.
9. **Teachers:** share your particular gardening skills and knowledge. Regular workshops are scheduled to keep gardens aware of traditional techniques, current challenges and future options.
10. **Green design:** examples which community gardeners may insert into their garden design (for example: A/C condensate or rainwater collection, solar lighting, passive-solar greenhouses, drip irrigation, mobile shades, funneling air past water to act as air-cooler).
11. **Alternative materials:** suggestions for acquiring recycled or reusable materials instead of all-new, pre-treated, pre-built (for example: old tractor tires make great beds).
12. **Heavy lifters:** during groundbreaking there is a tremendous amount of land clearing, tree/brush cutting, debris removal, and DIGGING.
13. **ADA design:** details for elevated garden bed construction, standards for paths, slopes, materials, turnarounds, heights, etc.
14. **Specialty tools:** tillers, sod cutters, metal saws for cutting metal edging, jack-hammers, and chain saws are frequently needed at the start-up of new gardens.
15. **Chefs:** offer snacks and refreshments to the worker bees.
16. **Delivery:** use your truck or other vehicle to transport free, donated and pre-paid materials from a retailer to a garden.
17. **Artists:** stretch the gardeners' imaginations with some hands-on art projects.
18. **Art features:** suggestions for integrating art into the gardens (for example: wall murals, placards as fence line, fountains, labyrinths, sculpture and path material).
19. **Renderings:** conceptual drawings of particular sites to help particular gardens build interest, support, and membership before the work is complete.
20. **First Aides:** teach gardeners the basics of first aid.