

Your Garden

Interest In Public Gardens Blooms

(NAPSA)—Public gardens have taken root in communities nationwide—and with good reason.

From teaching about nature to the latest ways to conserve water, the gardens offer a number of benefits and can be an interesting, relaxing and affordable way to spend time with family and friends.

There are more than 500 public gardens, botanical gardens, educational gardens and more across the U.S. While many people associate them with plant and tree conservation, they also preserve animal habitats through research, education and environmental stewardship.

Here's a look at some garden types that the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) suggests visiting:

- **Zoos**—Beyond helping to preserve animal species, zoos often have significant horticultural collections that depict the flora the animals experienced in their native habitats.

- **Entertainment Gardens**—These gardens include golf courses, theme parks, water parks and more. They're designed primarily to entertain their visitors, but have breathtaking horticultural displays as well.

- **Historical Sites**—These are places of historic or cultural significance, such as churches, cemeteries and historic homes. Often, the grounds are shaped to reflect the horticulture of their historical period.



Photo courtesy of Decanso Gardens

Public gardens can be a fun, affordable way to get back to nature.

- **Nature Gardens**—These gardens are created and designed to connect visitors with nature. They help inform and educate them about the botanical and ecological origins and functions of plant life and their relation to human beings and animals.

Finding Gardens

You can find a public garden in the area by visiting the APGA's Web site at www.publicgardens.org. To mark the importance of gardens for environmental stewardship, the group partnered with Rain Bird Corporation, a leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products, to promote National Public Gardens Day. The event includes activities for schools, families and the thousands of visitors who explore and discover local public gardens.



Note to Editors: Although National Public Gardens Day is May 8th, this article can benefit your readers at any time.