

Open Days Intake Form - New Gardens (2026 Season)

Thank you for your interest in Open Days—The Garden Conservancy's signature, award-winning education program. You are now part of a nationwide group of avid gardeners who share their gardens—and their passion—in support of The Garden Conservancy's mission to preserve, share, and celebrate America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public.

Who should use this form?

This form should be used by first-time garden hosts. The purpose of this form is to gather all of the information needed to list your garden in the upcoming Open Days season and helps us efficiently build your profile in our database.

If you have shared your garden through the Open Days program before, please [email us](#) and we will send you the correct form.

The questions that will be asked in the form below can be found [here](#). We recommend preparing your garden's description, directions and (optional) Trowel Talk in a word processing program before filling out the form, then copy and pasting the final text into the provided boxes.

We edit entries lightly for consistency, but rely on hosts for all other information, so please be sure to enter information exactly as you wish it to appear in the *2026 Open Days Directory*, electronic tickets, and on the Garden Conservancy's website.

This form should take 20-30 minutes to complete.

The deadline for inclusion in the **printed** 2026 Open Days Directory is **Tuesday, September 2.**

Upon successful completion of this form, a copy of your answers will be sent the email address provided with a timeline of what to expect for the upcoming season.

Items with a **red asterisk*** are required for the form to be submitted.

Paper forms are available upon request.

THANK YOU

You, your garden, and your enthusiasm are essential to making Open Days happen. Please feel free to contact us at any time with questions, ideas, concerns, or just to say hello. Email us at opendays@gardenconservancy.org or call us at 888.842.2442, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday.

About the Garden Owner

Tell us a bit about the primary Garden Owner

Garden Owner's Name

First

Last

Please list the Garden Owner's mailing address

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Please list your phone number.

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Please list the Garden Owner's e-mail address. Please make sure that this is an email that is frequently checked as this is our main form of correspondence. *

In which county is your garden located?

Open Days Communications

Please let us know the best ways to be in touch, and who we should include in our correspondence.

Is there a co-owner or co-gardener? If so, please list the second garden owner's name.

First

Last

Please list the co-owner or co-gardener's email address below if you would like them CC'd on Open Days communications

Is there a head gardener, landscape designer, estate manager, or other contact you would like included in our correspondence? Please list their name and relationship to the gardener.

Please list this contact's email address if you would like them CC'd on Open Days communications

For Open Days-related emails, who should we include in our correspondence?
(Select as many as applicable)

- ☐ The Garden Host
- ☐ The co-owner or co-gardener
- ☐ The Head Gardener, Landscape Designer, Estate Manager or other contact
- ☐ Please include all contacts listed

Is this Open Day a part of a Non-Profit Partnership?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you know of anyone with a great garden who may be interested in joining the program? If you select yes, we will reach out to learn more.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Creating Your Garden's Listing

Now comes the fun part! This section collects information about your garden to help guide Open Days visitors. The description and images will be used to build your garden's listing in the *Open Days Directory* and your garden's page on the Open Days website.

Entries are edited lightly for clarity.

GARDEN NAME: How would you like your garden to be named in the *Open Days Directory*? *

GARDEN DESCRIPTION: A description of your garden - in your own words - is a hallmark of the *Open Days Directory*. Please provide a brief, 350 word maximum - approximately 3-5 sentences in length - description of your garden.

Some suggestions to help you draft your garden's description are to include brief descriptions of garden rooms, how long you've been gardening, plant collections you have amassed, or enticing descriptions of defining features of your garden. Give a taste of what visitors will experience (but don't feel you need to describe everything!)

This is your opportunity to tell visitors not only about your horticultural passions but about you as a gardener!

Limit: 350 words

Maximum of **350** words. *Currently Used: 0 words.*

Trowel Talk

Since 2022, we have asked Garden Hosts to provide colorful anecdotes for a feature called *Trowel Talk* that appears in the *Open Days Directory*.

The purpose of this section is to give readers a bit of insight into your personality as a gardener.

Some suggested prompts to inspire you include:

What is your favorite plant?
Tell us about your first garden.
What is a plant that you have never had success with?
What is your favorite garden tool and why?
Tell us about who inspired you to garden.

There are no right or wrong answers!

Limit: 150 words

Maximum of **150** words. *Currently Used: 0 words.*

How would you like to "sign" your Trowel Talk? If you do not wish to include your full name, you can include your first name and initial of your last name (for example "John G.") or a gardening pseudonym. Unsigned entries will be signed "The Gardener."

Since 2022, "Nibbled Leaf" icons indicate nature friendly gardens - gardens that not only bring great pleasure to their owners and visitors but also share their bounty with as many other lifeforms as possible.

There are no rules or requirements, but rather a commitment that you make to yourself, your space, and the life that it supports.

Would you like to include a "Nature Friendly" icon for your garden in the *Open Days Directory*?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No, please do not include this icon

What is the approximate size of your garden? (for example, 5,000 square feet, .25 acres, 1 acre, etc.)

May visitors take photographs in your garden?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No, please include a "No Photography" icon in my Directory listing

Information for Tickets and Visitors

Let your visitors know how to reach your garden, and what to expect when they arrive. Information in this section will appear on tickets for Open Days gardens.

Is GPS Navigation (using Google, etc) typically accurate for your property?

- ☐ Yes, GPS is accurate ☐ No, GPS is misleading in my area

Please provide brief driving directions to help guide visitors to your property. This is especially important if GPS is not accurate for your property.

Upon arrival, where should visitors park? (For example, "Please park along Main Street" or "Please do not park in driveway, park in the field" etc. are helpful for visitors).

Terrain Notes

This section collects information about what visitors can expect when they arrive at your garden.

Thinking of visitors with limited mobility, are there any areas of terrain that you would like visitors to know about beforehand? We frequently receive calls from visitors asking about the terrain they should anticipate.

For example, "Visitors to this garden must traverse a steep driveway" "There are uneven cobblestones throughout the garden," or "This garden features stepping stones across a pond" are very helpful for visitors.

Would you like this garden to have a "Wheelchair Friendly" icon appear on the Open Days Directory and website?

- ☐ Yes, portions of my garden are wheelchair accessible. Please include the icon. ☐ No, please omit this icon.

Open Day Dates and Times

When would you like to open your garden? Whenever possible, we try to honor date requests. We like to have several gardens in the same area opening on the same day whenever possible.

In early autumn, we will reach out to propose and finalize dates based upon responses received from other nearby Garden Hosts.

If you are working with a Regional Ambassador, they will assist with date selection.

Open Days Hours and Ticketing Preferences

Please tell us a bit more about your Open Days preferences, including dates, times, and capacities for your garden.

Open Days are typically held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. What hours would you like your Open Day to be held?

- ☒ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ☐ Other

Do you want your garden to have a capacity?

- ☒ No, please do not set a limit to the number of tickets sold ☐ Yes, please limit the number of tickets
-

Your Garden's Page on our Website

This section collects information that will appear exclusively on our website to help visitors select gardens that are of special interest to them.

Which of the following characteristics apply to your garden?

You may choose as many characteristics as necessary.

Designations will be used on the website to help guide visitors to gardens with their preferred features.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine or Rock Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry or Xeriscape Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fruits & Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Structures or Sculptures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organic or toxin-free gardening practices | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic view |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden features substantial native plants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden has a water feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland or Shade Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare plants or plant collection | |

Are you interested in offering a [Digging Deeper](#) for the Open Days season?

Digging Deeper are in-depth looks and experiences at a variety of garden topics, typically offered alongside Open Days. If so, we will reach out.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to have more than one Open Day this season?

- ☐ ☒ No

Yes, I would like to have more
than one Open Day

When would you like to hold your second Open Day? Please state as "early May"
or "late June" to help us with date selection.

Garden Images

Open Days visitors are very visual! Please upload up to 5 images of your garden.

Files must be less than 10 MB total. For larger images, please upload to Google Drive or Drop Box and send the link to opendays@gardenconservancy.org

The best Open Days photos give a feel for the garden and its spaces. Several examples are:



Great garden photos can highlight a garden feature, offer a view of the landscape, or a long view of particular garden bed or room that typifies the garden.

We are unable to use photos that are very low resolution or very blurry, plant portraits, or close up photos of individual beds. Some examples of less effective images include:



Images can either be uploaded via this form or submitted to us via email at OpenDays@GardenConservancy.org. Please let us know how you will be submitting images to us.

- ☒ I will be submitting images through the form. ☐ I will submit images to you via email.

Attach a File

Choose File No file chosen

Attach a File

Choose File No file chosen

Attach a File

Choose File No file chosen

Attach a File

Choose File No file chosen

Do these photographs require any photographer's credits? If so, please list the photographer's name here.

Maximum of 200 characters. *Currently Used: 0 characters.*

I hereby authorize The Garden Conservancy and affiliated partners in the use of these garden image(s) in perpetuity for advertising, publicity and/or promotional purposes without further consent by myself or other persons. Permission is also granted for the use of these images on a non-exclusive basis throughout the world on all forms of media, including the internet, by The Garden Conservancy and its sponsorship companies. *

☐ I acknowledge and consent that The Garden Conservancy and affiliated partners may use my images.

Finishing Up

You're almost done!

Consent and Image Release

I hereby authorize The Garden Conservancy to include my garden's physical address on tickets, provided to registered visitors upon completion of their registration. *

☐ I acknowledge and consent that The Garden Conservancy to share my garden's physical address with registered visitors.

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