

Programs & Events

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

SPRING 2026



Spring Garden Day

Spring Garden Day - The Big Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (All ages) Local garden vendors descend on Green Spring Gardens with beautiful and unusual plants to fill your spring gardening needs. Growers and Extension Master Gardeners are on hand to help with plant selection and offer gardening advice. Home-baked goods and treats will be available at the bake sale at the Horticulture Center. There will also be a used book sale. This annual event is sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS).

PROGRAMS BY CATEGORY:

- Events & Getaways 1
- Gardening Programs 2
- Fine Arts 3
- Fitness & Wellness 4
- Youth & Family Programs 5
- Historic Green Spring Programs 6



Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

Getaway - Monticello, Charlottesville, VA

Tuesday, April 21

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Adults) Enjoy a memorable day trip to Monticello, the historic home of Thomas Jefferson. Explore the beautifully preserved estate, gardens, and exhibits that offer insight into Jefferson's life and legacy. Savor a delicious lunch at the Monticello café, featuring fresh, locally inspired fare. Afterwards, browse the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, where you'll find unique seeds, herbs, and garden gifts inspired by Jefferson's horticultural interests. Bus departs Green Spring Gardens at 7:00 a.m. and returns at 6:00 p.m. Cancellation deadline: April 7. Includes motor coach, house and garden tours, lunch, and admission. \$144 per person. Code: YME.DAJZ

Getaway - Maymont & Tea, Richmond, VA

Wednesday, May 27

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Adult) Enjoy a day steeped in beauty, tradition, and history. Begin the day with a tour of the newly renovated Gilded Age mansion of Maymont and the surrounding gardens, including the elaborate Italianate and sublime Japanese gardens. We will enjoy an afternoon tea at the Jefferson Hotel. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Trip departs Green Spring Gardens at 8am and returns at 5pm. Trip cancellation deadline: May 13. Includes motor coach, house tour, tea and admission. \$179 per person. Code: 5EB.JQDU

Register at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes
using the program code or by calling
703-642-5173



Become a Friend of
Green Spring!
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www.friendsofgreen.org or call
703-642-5173

4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Va. 22312 . 703-642-5173
TTY Va. Relay 711 . www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring

Gardening Programs

Garden Gate Plant Shop

Opening on Saturday, April 11

Hours

Monday - Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Closes for the season in late October

Spring Bounty – Foraging for Edibles

Saturday, April 4

1 - 2 p.m. (16-Adult) From onion grass and violets to elusive morels, learn how to identify a variety of wild plants that may be growing right in your own backyard. Take a walk with fresh eyes and rediscover your surroundings through the lens of foraging. This class will guide you through the basics of safe and responsible foraging, including key identification tips, potential look-alikes, and culinary or medicinal uses of each plant. You'll leave with a new appreciation for the natural abundance around you. \$12 per person.

Code: DNA.FHT8

Garden Talk- Planting Your Sidewalk Strip

Saturday, April 11

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) The no man's land between street and sidewalk don't often support healthy lawns. They can host thriving gardens that dramatically improve their surroundings. Extension Master Gardeners show you how to add curb appeal and give wildlife an urban stopover for shelter and food. \$12 per person. Code: P46.3YM8

Garden Talk – Rock Gardening

Friday, April 24

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (16-Adult) Rock gardens add a special look to any landscape. Extension Master Gardeners will teach you how to design and plant a beautiful display with fabulous small and dwarf perennials and evergreens. Not only do these plants boast great longevity, but they require little maintenance. \$12 per person. Code: Ø32.WL4L

Grocery Gardening 101

Saturday, April 25

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (16-Adult) In honor of Stop Food Waste Day, learn how to turn everyday kitchen scraps into fresh, edible plants. Learn how to regrow vegetables, herbs, and more from your food scraps. Then start your own grocery garden. Whether you have a windowsill or a garden at home, you'll discover easy ways to stretch your groceries, reduce food waste, and boost food resilience. \$18 per person.

Code: AJ9.3C1B

Garden Talk - Composting Made Simple

Friday, May 1

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. (16-Adult) Learn how to turn garden and yard waste into valuable compost to use throughout your yard and garden. Learn how easy it can be to save money by making your own. Extension Master Gardeners show what you need to do to have your own compost pile. \$12 per person. Code: 625.8XM8

White Gardens Flower Walk

Saturday, May 2

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (16-Adult) Join Green Spring Staff on a walking tour of the John C. and Margaret K. White Gardens (6711 Princess Anne Lane, Falls Church 22042). Stroll through this serene natural setting while discovering a stunning variety of flowering plants, trees, and shrubs that thrive during spring. Learn about the diverse collection and the restorative efforts that have been happening at this hidden oasis while taking in the colorful spring flowers. \$15 per person. Code: 1RA.6FP8

Growing Low - Designing with Groundcover Plants

Saturday, May 9

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. (16-Adult) Groundcovers can be a great accent in the garden with many flowering and evergreen options for sun or shade. Join Green Spring Gardens staff for a short lecture on how to use groundcovers to solve design challenges, followed by a walk around the grounds to view some of our gardeners' favorites. Dress for the weather. \$19 per person. Code: PKS.JR6W

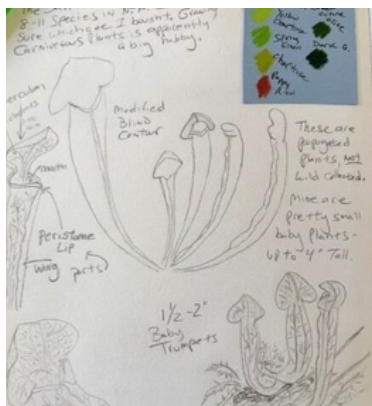
Spring Garden Tour

Saturday, May 23

10 - 11 a.m. (Adults) Tour Green Spring's beautiful demonstration gardens with a docent. Enjoy some standout plants of spring and find inspiration in our garden designs. Hear about our 18th century origins and our mission today. \$12 per person. Code: AUH.6CUA



Fine Arts



Botanical Journaling

Wednesdays, April 1 & 15
Wednesdays, June 3 & 17

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (16-Adult) Learn how to create a botanical journal to experiment and to improve your drawing skills. Engage in drawing exercises, a seasonal walk through the garden to gather inspiration, dedicated time to work on a botanical study page, and learn tips on layout and media options. Start in pencil, then transition to a project in watercolor or colored pencil. A list of suggested materials will be sent prior to class start. Class meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month for two sessions. \$40 per person.

4/1 & 4/15 Code: NJV.8ZH9 6/3 & 6/17 Code: NJV.CVR6

Writing Workshop - Nature in Fiction

Friday, April 10

1:30 - 3 p.m. (14- Adult) Explore how to incorporate the beauty, power, and symbolism of nature into your storytelling. Learn techniques for using the natural world to enhance atmosphere, develop characters, and enrich plotlines across genres. Then, take a walk through the gardens for inspiration, followed by a guided writing session to practice weaving your surroundings into your work. Bring something to write with—pen, notebook, or any tool that helps your words take root. \$12 per person. Code: H7Z.E1QZ

Watercolor Workshop - Watercolor from the Beginning

Saturday, April 4

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (16-Adult) You will learn everything you need to build a strong foundation in getting started in watercolor. Learn detailed information on paper, paint and brushes explained clearly and demonstrated with helpful visual aids. Practice mixing colors, learn how to do basic washes and find out about special techniques unique to watercolor. \$115 per person. Code: 7IL.8I35

Colored Pencil & Acrylic Workshop

Saturday, April 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (16-Adult) Colored pencils and acrylic layering is a fantastic technique for building up soft textures, sharp edges, and rich colors. Drawing from colorful photographs or still-life objects of flora and fauna, artist Dawn Flores helps you explore the techniques used to take colored pencils a step beyond their traditional use. \$115 per person. Code: BD3.SY8W

Ikebana Floral Design Workshop

Saturday, April 18, 25, & May 9

10 - 11:25 a.m. (Adults) Immerse yourself in the elegance and simplicity of Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging, in this three-class series. Guided by Alice Buch, 1st Degree Master of the Ohara School, you'll progressively build your skills, starting with foundational techniques and advancing to more intricate arrangements. Each session will focus on a different aspect of Ikebana, allowing you to deepen your understanding and mastery of this timeless art form. All supplies are included. Participants are encouraged to bring their own flower scissors. No prior experience is necessary. Please register for the \$124 program fee and the \$60 supply fee. Code: 3FB.JXDB

Paper Quilling

Flower Basket Magnet Workshop

Saturday, April 18

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (8-Adult) Discover how to turn simple looking colorful paper strips into beautiful work of art. In this workshop you will create colorful flowers, leaves, paper woven basket and then you will glue them on the basket. These magnets are perfect to decorate you freezer, locker or for gift giving. A \$25 supply fee is payable to the instructor at the beginning of the class. \$44 per person. Code: VGE.VRX2

Drawing Workshop – Butterflies and Plants

Saturday, May 2

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (16-Adult) Explore the beauty of butterflies and their dependence on plants for their life cycle. Study and illustrate them with specimens or photographs. Artist and instructor Caroline Hottenstein shows you how to use the media of your choice - a micron pen, watercolor, graphite, or colored pencils to illustrate them. Previous drawing experience encouraged. \$115 per person. Code: FJ8.AØLS

Painting Workshop - Garden Stepping Stones

Saturday, May 23

1 - 4 p.m. (16-Adult) Design and paint a set of three concrete stepping stones, using stencils or your own freehand designs, to add a decorative touch to your garden. After painting, set your stones outside to dry in the sun. Once dry, they will be sealed at the end of class with a weatherproof coating to ensure they last through the seasons. No experience necessary. Please register for the \$44 program fee and the \$20 supply fee. Code: 9SA.EE16

Watercolor Workshop – Botanical Watercolors

Saturday, May 30

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (16-Adult) For the beginner or advanced student, artist and instructor Dawn Flores will share watercolor techniques through exercises that help you understand color, composition and improve brush control. Learn about the history and types of paper used in botanical art. Basic drawing skills are helpful for drawing the plant specimen from which to paint an elegant botanical portrait. \$115 per person. Code: 6CZ.TZG8

Fitness & Wellness

Tai Chi I

Starting Monday, March 23

1:30 - 2:25 p.m. (13-Adult) Tai Chi promotes flexibility, balance and physical control. This low-impact mind/body class is based on ancient Chinese exercises to increase energy flow while decreasing stress. 8 sessions. \$115 per person. Code: ED9.21JR

Tai Chi II

Starting Monday, March 23

12:15 - 1:10 p.m. (13-Adult) Tai Chi I recommended. 8 sessions. \$115 per person. Code: 63Ø.WSLL

Tai Chi III

Starting Monday, March 23

11 - 11:55 a.m. (13-Adult) Tai Chi II recommended. 8 sessions. \$115 per person. Code: 156.J1FT

Yoga for Gardeners

Starting Monday, March 23

9:30 - 10:25 a.m. (16-Adult) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. 8 sessions. \$115 per person. Code: 6E6.UZU5

Poetry Workshop – Thaw and Bloom

Wednesday, March 25

1:30 - 3 p.m. (16-Adult) Join published poet Sherri Waas Shunfenthal and spend some time outdoors meditating on nature and the emerging spring season transformation. Using your senses, memories or an object found, Sherri will guide you in creating poetry. There will be discussion, writing and sharing time. Bring a journal or sketchbook to enhance with poetry. \$12 per person. Code: R91.NCY2

Intro to Tai Chi - Find Your Balance

Saturdays, March 28, April 25, & May 9

(13-Adult) Experience the calming flow of Tai Chi in this introductory class which is perfect for anyone curious about its gentle movements and stress-reducing benefits. Learn fundamental principles, basic forms and cultivate a sense of mind-body connection in a welcoming environment. This class provides a great way to discover if Tai Chi is right for you. \$14 per person.

3/28: 10 - 10:55 a.m. Code: Y5R.LUCT

4/25: 11 - 11:55 a.m. Code: Y5R.FØI4

5/09: 10 - 10:55 a.m. Code: Y5R.7ØLU

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens

Saturdays, April 18 & May 23

(Adults) Join Certified Forest Therapy Guide and co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature, Ana Ka'ahanui, for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku, this contemplative walk inspires interaction with the surrounding nature in a way that will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. The experience concludes with a soothing spot of tea, offering a moment to reflect and savor the essence of nature. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. Dress for the weather. \$35 per person.

4/18: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Code: ZØY.5RNP

5/23: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Code: ZØY.P095

Meditation in the Gardens

Sunday, April 26 & Friday, June 5

(16-Adult) Explore how nature, metaphor, and deep listening can enhance connection—with yourself, others, and the world around you. This immersive garden-based class combines guided reflection, emotional awareness practices and practical tools for mindful communication. Learn to tune into your inner landscape while engaging with the natural one. End with a relaxing sound bathing experience to help you integrate, unwind and return to your day grounded and refreshed. Class goes outside, weather permitting. \$24 per person.

4/26: 1 - 3 p.m. Code: 3DC.AEDE

6/05: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Code: 3DC.BZH8



Participants of the Meditation in the Gardens program

Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using the program code or by calling 703-642-5173.

Out-of-county registrants add \$2 for programs up to \$50; \$15 for programs \$51 and up.

Youth & Family Programs

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Saturdays, March 21, April 11 & May 9

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (4-Adult) Join us at Green Spring Gardens each month for a nature-themed scavenger hunt and discovery walk. Explore different aspects of the garden while searching for seasonal blooms and monthly-themed objects hidden throughout the park. \$9 per person.

3/21 - Code: VDE.4T6W

4/11 - Code: VDE.DAKX

5/09 - Code: VDE.24R6

Garden Artists - Scentsational Spring

Saturday, March 28

12 - 1:30 p.m. (10-Adult) Celebrate Spring through scent and creativity. Explore the garden's earliest blooms on a sensory walk, then craft a personal scent using natural ingredients that capture the fresh, floral notes of the season. All attendees, including parents, must be registered. \$15 per person. Code VW5.Q3SS

Garden Sprouts Spring - Nature Playgroup

Mondays, April 13 & May 11

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (2-4 yrs.) Your preschooler will enjoy nature-themed activities and crafts while you meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. Through games, songs, activities and a garden walk, we will explore seasonal topics. Kids must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who does not need to register for the program. Siblings under 3 welcome to accompany parent without registering. \$12 per child.

4/13 - Code: ZHJ.BPMN

5/11 - Code: ZHJ.BYUØ

Little Gardeners

Saturdays, March 28, April 18 & May 30

10:30 - 11:15 a.m. (2-6 yrs.) Explore the ever-changing landscape of the garden. Each week, participants will explore and discover the changes in the garden. This program will feature seasonal activities like planting seeds, pollinators, harvesting vegetables, digging in the soil and exploring plant parts. Kids must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who does not need to register for the program. \$12 per child.

3/28 - Code: ZF6.BSJM

4/18 - Code: ZF6.9KE6

5/30 - Code: ZF6.8FO7

Garden Spring Storytime - April Showers

Saturday, April 11

10 - 11 a.m. (All Ages) It's springtime and that often means rainy days. Let's get together for a cozy session of reading books about rain, making rainy day crafts and singing songs. All attendees, including parents, must be registered for the program to control size. \$8 per person. Code: TE5.QRFX

Family Fun - Celebration of Pachamama

Saturday, April 18

12 - 1:30 p.m. (7-Adult) Celebrate Earth Day by exploring the spirit of Pachamama. Take a nature walk to reflect on her significance, then create portraits using natural materials to express what she means to you. Craft a personal pledge to carry with you as a reminder of your connection to the Earth. All attendees must be registered. \$10 per person. Code: WLO.YXLE

Garden Exploration - Rooted in Nature

Saturday, May 23

9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (8-Adult) Slow down, breathe deep, and connect with nature. Take in the garden, using your senses to discover its sights, scents, and sounds. Then settle into breathwork and gentle movement to explore your relationship with the Earth. All attendees must be registered. \$9 per person. Code: 1Y1.2PBG

Garden Artists - Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, May 31

1 - 2 p.m. (5-Adult) Spring is a beautiful time for flowers. Enjoy a walk through the gardens and native plant trail as we check out what's in bloom. Learn how different color flowers attract different pollinators. Then we will make a spring flower craft. All attendees must be registered. \$10 per person. Code: NP2.ZJO3

Summer Camps

Garden Sprouts Exploration (4-6yrs.)

June 15 - June 18 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

June 15 - June 18 | 1 - 4 p.m.

Fairies & Gnomes (6-9 yrs.)

July 6 - July 10 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 6 - July 10 | 1 - 4 p.m.

Minecraft Architects: Building our World (5-12yrs.)

July 13 - July 17 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Excavation Investigation (7-11yrs.)

July 20 - July 24 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Arts al Fresco (7-11yrs.)

July 27 - July 31 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Magic & Spy Camp (6-10 yrs.)

August 3 - August 7 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Paper Crafts Camp (6-14 yrs.)

August 24 - August 28 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See Parktakes Online for the descriptions, costs, and activity codes of our camp offerings.

Historic Green Spring Programs

The 1784 Historic House is open to the public Wednesday-Sunday, 12 - 4:30 p.m.
For questions call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987

Diagnosing the Past

Sunday, March 29

1 - 2 p.m. (Adults) Modern medical and scientific knowledge is often used to investigate ailments and causes of death of historical figures and ordinary people. Hear what we do and don't know about the long-ago demises of past residents of Historic Green Spring as we consider the practice of retrospective diagnosis. Discover potential pitfalls in attempting to diagnose "historical patients". Light refreshments and conversation to follow. \$18 per person. Code: 5L9.X7Q3

Historic House Walk & Talk

Saturdays, March 28 & April 25

10 - 11:30 a.m. (12-Adult) Take a brief outdoor stroll around the 1784 Historic House to learn about its architecture and historic designed landscape. Step inside the house to learn about residents of Green Spring past. Enjoy compelling stories of public service, trailblazing women, espionage, civil rights, enslavement and freedom. Hear what we know about enslaved people who lived and worked on Green Spring Farm and ongoing research to discover more. \$15 per person.

3/28 - Code: R40.IEZH
4/25 - Code: R40.XSYH

Historic Green Spring House Tour

Thursdays, April through June

11 - 11:45 a.m. (9-Adult) Visit the first floor of Green Spring Gardens' 1784 Historic House and learn about the site's 18th century origins, its early owners and the enslaved people who once lived and toiled here. Hear fascinating stories of past residents and discover how Green Spring became a horticultural and historical resource for visitors today. \$10 per person.

April Dates - Code: RPU.524H
May Dates - Code: RPU.1QØ8
June Dates - Code: RPU.I6L4

Feast of Flowers

Saturday, April 4

10 - 11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) Learn from Green Spring Gardens' historian about the rich history of how edible flowers have enhanced dishes for centuries by adding flavor, beauty and symbolism. Blend culinary tradition with Victorian artistry as you try your hand at crystallizing petals. Take home your candied creations and tips for using flowers as elegant, edible decorations. \$29 per person. Code: 4SM.JVOQ

Special Relationship

Sunday, April 12

1 - 2 p.m. (Adults) From the Revolutionary War to the mid-twentieth century, some former residents of Green Spring had connections to England that reflected the changing relations between America and its former adversary. Since declaring independence from the tyranny of British rule 250 years ago, the two nations have formed an enduring alliance. Consider the history of the "Special Relationship" between the U.S. and the U.K. and the rocky road towards our close ties and cultural affinities today. Light refreshments and conversation to follow. This program links to the VA250 and Fairfax250 commemoration. \$18 per person. Code 5LX.M4OV



Art of Mending

Sunday, April 19

12:30 - 2 p.m. (12-Adult) Discover how people of the past patched, stitched and darned to mend worn clothing. See and touch examples of mending techniques. Learn how to thread a needle, make basic stitches and sew on a patch to extend the life of your own garments. \$20 per person. Code: RPV.F8CR

Book Workshop – *Fighting for the Forests*

Saturday, May 2

1:30 – 3 p.m. (12-Adult) Join award-winning author P. O'Connell Pearson for an engaging exploration of her acclaimed book *Fighting for the Forest: How FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps Helped Save America*. Discover the true stories of the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who helped restore America's landscapes into National Parks during the Great Depression. Then bring it to life by designing erosion-control structures in groups to explore the real-world impact of these young environmental pioneers. This program links to the VA250 and Fairfax250 commemoration. \$15 per person. Code: JW8.IZ9R



The Timbre of Trees

Sunday, May 3

1 - 2 p.m. (Adults) Learn how trees pinpointed a construction date for Green Spring's 1784 Historic House through the fascinating science of dendrochronology. Hear all about the exciting process that solved a long-standing mystery and revealed more about Green Spring's history. Discover that tree-ring dating has been used to date many things, from a Stradivarius violin to a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, and that it can interpret long-ago environmental events and help to predict future trends. Light refreshments and conversation to follow. \$18 per person. Code: 2Q3.YZ2J



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Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Road
Alexandria, Va. 22312
703-642-5173

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring



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