

Volunteer Opportunities

Assigned Gardeners

As part of this fun opportunity, you provide care for your own specific garden area, on your own schedule. We suggest a minimum of two hours per week during the growing season.

Clerical Support

Put your experience to good use by assisting the administrative staff with a variety of projects, including preparing mailings, data entry and making phone calls.

Cottage Garden Gallery

The Cottage Garden Gallery (onsite in the Parker Education Building) features the unique works of local artisans. Proceeds of all sales benefit the Gardens. In addition to selling original works of art, the Gallery also has ice cream, snacks and refreshments available for purchase. Volunteers should have strong customer service experience, and will be trained to use a cash register. In addition to gift shop duties, Gallery volunteers also support the RBG staff by directing phone calls and answering visitor questions. Gallery hours vary by season and a variety of shifts are available.

Education

A perfect option for those with an interest in youth and family programming or exploring the Gardens as a living classroom. RBG offers a diverse line-up of educational offerings that rely heavily upon volunteer support and expertise, including school programs and tours, the Story & Stroll program, and family-friendly activities. The Rotary Botanical Gardens' website rotarybotanicalgardens.org and Facebook are excellent sources of information regarding upcoming educational events.

Garden Ambassadors

Garden Ambassadors walk the Gardens' paths weeknights and weekends during normal hours of operation. They greet guests and ensure safe and respectful behavior, by providing a positive presence in the Gardens. During weekend hours ambassadors greet wedding guests at open garden gates and direct invited guests to the appropriate garden areas. As part of this opportunity, volunteers may enjoy working in pairs, with friend or spouse. All are provided a two-way radio to communicate with the admissions desk and training is provided.

Garden Concierge

The Garden Concierge provides visitors' information about the Garden including history, points of interest, membership and upcoming RBG events in addition to providing information and recommendations about local features such as shopping, dining and recreational destinations. Volunteers should have strong customer service skills and evolving knowledge of the Gardens and Janesville area.

Garden Docents/Tour Guides

Docents/Tour Guides are called upon to guide bus tours or group visits, lead guided walks through the Gardens, convey the history and design of the Gardens and entertain questions. Groups are divided up into manageable numbers so both the Docent/Tour Guide and the group has an enjoyable experience. Training is provided. All tours and corresponding docents are scheduled in advance of the date.

1455 Palmer Drive
Janesville, WI 53545
608.752.3885

rotarybotanicalgardens.org





ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH NATURAL BEAUTY, EDUCATION AND THE ARTS.

General Gardening

While we prefer some notice, we can frequently find a project for those who give short notice or just drop by for general gardening. The grounds staff is at the Gardens from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, but volunteers are not limited to those times; we can accommodate all schedules.

Grumpies

This affectionate name was derived from the movie "Grumpy Old Men" but the group of volunteers is dynamic and diverse, and has existed since the inception of the Gardens. Grumpies are involved with many gardening activities in addition to special event preparation, painting, carpentry, equipment repair, etc. We're always in need of more volunteers to join this informal and fun group. Grumpies meet at the Horticulture Center on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon, with a 10 a.m. coffee break.

Saturday Garden Work Days

Group work days are on select Saturdays ([see calendar for dates](#)) during the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon (with a coffee break at 10 a.m.). Volunteers meet at the Parker Education Center. Dress for weather conditions and bring gardening gloves; tools will be supplied.

Special Events

Perfect for those who would like to volunteer at specific times of the year. RBG offers an exciting roster of annual events that rely heavily upon volunteer support and expertise, including plant sales, fundraisers, the Home Garden Tour, Halloween Walk, Taste of Chocolate dinner and the Holiday Light Show. The Rotary Botanical Gardens' website rotarybotanicalgardens.org, Facebook and the Director of Horticulture's blog rotarygardens.blogspot.com are excellent sources of information regarding upcoming events.

Sunday Watering Crew

Small crews are needed to water containers in the Gardens on Sundays. Participants can sign up for any number of time slots. A training session is provided in the spring.

To join our amazing volunteer community please contact Maryam Polley, Volunteer & Membership Coordinator, at 608.752.3885 ext. 18 or volunteer@rotarygardens.org.

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