



Some ideas for getting involved with Unforgettable Gardens

There's lots to organise or even run during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. Many people will be isolated for quite a while and looking for new interests, so this is your opportunity to give them something to do and recruit volunteers and supporters along the way!

Any activity or idea is welcome, but try to remember that the

Key message of Unforgettable Gardens is:

Value: historic parks and gardens are brilliant

Threat: historic parks and gardens are unfortunately very vulnerable in a myriad of ways

Protection: historic parks and gardens can be protected in various ways (research and recording, practical conservation, desk-based work such as commenting on planning applications)

Get involved: everyone is a stakeholder in this shared national heritage, so people could and should get involved

Please contact your local County Gardens Trust and see if you can combine efforts (<http://thegardenstrust.org/about-us/find-local-cgts/>)



thegardenstrust.org

 @thegardenstrust

Projects:

- Ask a historic property if they need volunteer help with fundraising or maintenance to 'catch up' after the Covid-19 lockdown
- Restoration of an almost forgotten landscape feature
- Contact your local County Gardens Trust to see if they are researching and recording historic landscapes in your area, and become a volunteer
- Put together a team to write Statements of Significance for historic parks and gardens in your area and make sure they go onto the Historic Environment Record
- Set up a volunteer project focussed on restoration, conservation, research
- Contact your local County Gardens Trust and see if you can help protect historic parks and gardens from development threats
- Project for people with dementia, based on memories of the landscape
- Put together a volunteer group to help look after your local threatened landscape, or link with an existing Friends group or County Gardens Trust

Events:

- Organise an event that highlights a phenomenal but vulnerable garden
- Host a 'reunion' for your local community in the park that served them so well during the pandemic
- Offer an outing for families to a public park they may not have visited before
- Free or augmented access as part of a Heritage Open Day
- Guided walk with an expert (perhaps from a County Gardens Trust)
- Lecture, which includes talking about conservation issues facing the site and ways guests can get involved
- Link with or set up a Park Run in a historic landscape and help the runners understand what they are running through
- Night walks (with cocktails and hot soup!)
- Bird watch
- Tree identification workshop
- Visits for visitors with physical disabilities
- Visits for elderly with accessibility or social issues
- Visits for those from different cultural backgrounds

Exhibitions and publications:

- Research and write the story of a lost garden that will never be forgotten
- Host an exhibition of old garden photographs – maybe online, or at accessible venues such as sports halls, community centres and pubs
- Research and produce a downloadable leaflet on historic parks and gardens in your area – perhaps lost, perhaps little known?

Activities:

- Offer an outing for families to a public park they may not have visited before
- Draw your own historic landscape art classes, focussing on the impact that new development has in key views
- Suggest a site or story to be the subject of our Covid-19 social media campaign – sallybate@thegardenstrust.org
- Use social media to highlight less-known historic parks and gardens and the threats facing them. You could join in with the Gardens Trust's campaign.
- Join us at our social media to highlight sites you are missing during lockdown, or sites you are now reliant on for your daily exercise
- Run a photography or postcard writing competition through local papers
- Commission and promote an aerial film of a historic landscape

Of course, some of these activities will only be possible after Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, but it is great to have something to plan for and look forward to.

Any idea that helps celebrate and support our garden and landscape heritage will be welcome!

Enjoyment of our national heritage of parks and gardens is an immense privilege that everyone deserves to benefit from. Can your Unforgettable Gardens initiatives strive to share this treasure with new people?

Support materials:

- **Children's activities:** Capability Brown Festival Education Pack - <http://www.capabilitybrown.org/resources-sites>
- **Achievable and accessible events for new audiences:** Sharing Repton Resource Hub at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/sharing-repton-2/>, or in the Capability Brown Festival Manual for Owners - <http://www.capabilitybrown.org/resources-sites>
- **Training materials for volunteers:** Our capacity-building volunteer training materials are being refreshed and re-issued through 2020, particularly focussing on projects that can be undertaken from home - <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>
- **Accessible projects and workshops for new volunteers:** Sharing Repton Resource Hub at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/sharing-repton-2/>

The Historic Landscape Project, April 2020 v1

Please note: All materials produced by The Gardens Trust and its predecessor organisations are available for free download and reuse for non-commercial purposes. All such materials are subject to the © copyright of The Gardens Trust and may not be used for any commercial purpose without the permission of The Gardens Trust.