

**HB**

**18**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 18</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
18</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/30/11

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 3-5-11

State Affairs Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 18(STA) am

## HB 18-ALASKA PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

"An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year."

and recommends:


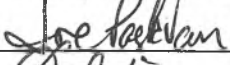
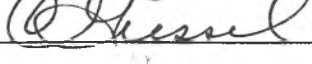

- be replaced with SCS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous SCS \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
Leg			X	2
Admin			X	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	KOOKESH	X			
	PASKVAN	X			
	Giessel	X			
CHAIR: 	wie lechowki	X			



# Representative Beth Kerttula

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House Minority Leader

DATE: March 30, 2011

TO: Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Beth Kerttula *Beth Kerttula*

RE: House Bill 18 ALASKA PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

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I respectfully request that the Senate State Affairs Committee schedule House Bill HB 18 Alaska Public Gardens Day for a hearing.

Please find attached:

- CS House Bill 18 (STA) am
- Sponsor statement
- Dept of Administration and Legislature Fiscal Notes
- Letters of Support
- National Public Gardens Day Information
- City & Borough of Juneau Proclamation
- Governor Parnell Executive Proclamation

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or my aide, Hannah McCarty (x4767).



# Representative Beth Kerttula

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House Minority Leader

## Sponsor Statement

### CS House Bill 18

**"An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year."**

House Bill 18 establishes Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year. This recognition would commemorate the state's public gardens and the role gardens play in promoting environmental stewardship, education, plant conservation, recreation and research.

Alaska has three American Public Garden Association member gardens: the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage; the University of Alaska Fairbanks Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks; and the Jenson-Olson Arboretum in Juneau. Each plays an important role in their community and in helping to preserve northern latitude plants.

Our gardens serve the public in many ways. They are tourism designations and have vast local recreation value. They also serve as important practical educational facilities for children and adults to learn about gardening, ecology, and science as well as partnering with other organizations to provide school-based education programs, public health education programs and community and school gardens. They provide workforce training sites for youth and adults in transition and work on habitat restoration. In addition, they provide information on the how to choose regionally appropriate plants that are native to the area for landscaping purposes.

These public gardens have a measurable impact on the quality of life in our communities and it is important to set aside a day each year to celebrate their role in keeping Alaskans and visitors connected to our natural world.

Thank you for your support of House Bill 18.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number 1  
 Bill Version CSHB 18(STA)  
 (H) Publish Date 3/9/11

HB018-DOA-FAC-02-25-11  
 Title Alaska Public Gardens Day Dept. Affected DOA  
 Appropriation State Owned Facilities  
 Allocation Facilities  
 Sponsor Representatives Kerttula  
 Requester House State Affairs OMB Component Number 2429

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>							
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial fiscal note.

Prepared by Vern Jones, Director  
 Division General Services  
 Approved by John Cramer, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 465-5684  
 Date/Time 3/2/11 9:00 AM  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 18(STA)

**Analysis**

This bill will have no fiscal impact.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number 2  
 Bill Version CSHB 18(STA)  
 (H) Publish Date 3/9/11

Identifier (file name) HB18-LEG-COU-03-01-2011 Dept. Affected Legislature  
 Title Establish AK Public Garden Day Appropriation Legislative Council  
 Allocation Session Expenses  
 Sponsor Representative Kerttula  
 Requester State Affairs OMB Component Number 782

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version**

Initial Version

Prepared by Shane Miller, Finance Manager  
 Division Administrative Services Division  
 Approved by Pamela Varni, Executive Director  
Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone 465-6626  
 Date/Time 3/1/11 4:49 PM  
 Date 3/1/2011

FISCAL NOTE #2

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 18(STA)

**Analysis**

This fiscal note has zero impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.



**CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU**  
★ **ALASKA'S CAPITAL CITY**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Telephone: (907) 586-5240; Facsimile: (907) 586-5385  
[Mayor@ci.juneau.ak.us](mailto:Mayor@ci.juneau.ak.us)

February 15, 2011

Honorable Beth Kerttula  
Alaska State Representative  
State Capitol, Room 404  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of Alaska HB 18

Dear Representative Kerttula:

I am writing to encourage your full support of Alaska HB 18, "An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year". At last year's Alaska Public Gardens Day celebration approximately 600 Juneau citizens and visitors attended, affirming increasing popular support for Juneau's public garden. We would like to make Alaska Public Gardens Day an annual event.

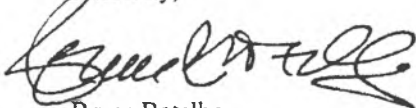
Nationally, the United States celebrates Public Gardens Day in early May and several states and cities in the lower 48 have, through formal legislative action, recognized the day in their own context. This is a day set aside by the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) to promote awareness of public gardens and their value to local communities.

Alaska enjoys the benefits of three APGA-member gardens as well as several unaffiliated gardens. The Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks, and the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau are special places that provide opportunities for education, plant conservation, recreation, and research. The Alaskan gardening season doesn't correspond with the lower 48, so the late May date is an appropriate choice for our climate.

Public gardens have a measurable impact on the quality of life in a community and in Alaska, this is magnified. While Alaska boasts unparalleled scenic vistas, there are few opportunities for wandering in a cultivated garden setting. Throughout history, public garden settings have provided teaching space as well as space for contemplation and respite. And, public gardens help define a community's sense of longevity as well as its culture.

Thank you for your support of HB 18 and your continued support of Parks & Recreation and the Jensen-Olson Arboretum.

Sincerely,



Bruce Botelho  
Mayor

Rep. Beth Kerttula  
State Capitol Room 404  
Juneau, AK 99801

Jan. 10, 2011

Re HB 18

Dear Representative Kerttula;

Alaska's gardens bring visitors from around the world to see their bounty — whether native Alpine species, exotics coaxed and pampered to survive in this climate, or hearty vegetables. But sometimes, we fail to appreciate what is in our own backyards.

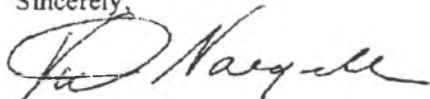
The proposed HB 18 Alaska Public Gardens Day, the Saturday before Memorial Day each year, will draw attention to efforts in local communities to beautify and to nourish through gardening. Gardens, like those here in Palmer at the Palmer Visitor Center and the Alaska State Fairgrounds, give visitors a chance to see many of the plant species that will grow here in Alaska. And at the Alaska Plant Materials Center, the new Alaska garden there tells stories of history, culture, sustainability and variety.

These gardens, and others around the state, deserve the spotlight shone upon them on their own special day, and I urge you to help designate the last Saturday in May as that day.

While, as my experience with Alaska Agriculture Day has shown, it can take some time to raise awareness using a special day, it can be the catalyst for a range of activities and media coverage. For those of us who operate programs with a very limited budget, it is one more tool in the educational arsenal. I urge you to support the efforts of Alaska Botanical Garden, the Georgeson Botanical Gardens and others to make this a reality.

Thank you for supporting any efforts that help students understand the sources of their food, fabric and flowers, and my thanks for your ongoing interest and support of Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom.

Sincerely,



Victoria Naegele  
Executive Director  
Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom

9788 N Waldo Reed Rd., Palmer, Alaska 99645 • akaitc@alaskafb.org  
(907) 746-2172 or 982-2219 • fax 746-2173  
*Alaska AITC is a 501c3 project of the Alaska Farm Bureau*



Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom



**Alaska  
Botanical  
Garden**

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*Cammy Taylor*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Julianne McGuinness*

Dear Representative Kerttula:

January 11, 2011

I am to support, and thank you for sponsoring, House Bill No. 18, "An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year".

As the Executive Director of the Alaska Botanical Garden, each day I witness the tremendous educational, recreational, and inspirational value the public gardens of our State have for our communities and visitors alike. They are important cultural / scientific institutions as well as true community treasures.

Our Gardens serve the public on many levels: as tourism destinations, as important educational facilities for children and adults to learn about gardening, ecology, and science, as workforce-training sites for youth and adults in transition, and as places where families and school groups "get outdoors" for wellness-enhancing exercise. (In fact, gardening is one of the top national and Alaskan pass-times, and garden tourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry.)

Alaska has three APGA-member gardens, and many unaffiliated gardens also open to the public. The Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks, and the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau are special places that provide opportunities for education, plant conservation, recreation, and research. They have an increasingly vital role to play in northern-latitude plant preservation. These public gardens have a measurable impact on the quality of life in our communities and in Alaska.

The United States celebrates National Public Gardens Day in early May, and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) actively uses this special day to promote awareness of public gardens and their value to local communities. However, since the Alaskan gardening season doesn't correspond with rest of the nation, a later date in May is a more appropriate choice for our climate.

I respectfully request that the legislature pass this bill as a means to proclaim the vital role public gardens play in a sustainable and healthy Alaska.

Sincerely,

Julianne McGuinness  
Executive Director, Alaska Botanical Garden  
907-562-7010 / julianne@alaskabg.org

Dear Representative Kerttula:

I am writing to give my full support to House Bill No. 18, "An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year".

The Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage is my place of employment so I have a year round appreciation for its importance to the community. The Garden is utilized by children, families, and individuals as a place to relax in nature, do research, preserve plant material and educate. As a small non-profit with a fixed budget, we are unable to reach out to as many people and organizations as we would like. By allowing Alaska to have its own specific Public Gardens Day, we could greatly increase our reach, especially since we would offer it as a FREE day so all could partake. We are experiencing an ever growing demand for outdoor education and this would be a great opportunity to provide! We have hundreds of volunteers that keep the garden growing. Why not share this amazing resource with the entire community?

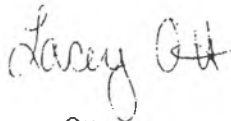
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Alaska enjoys the benefits of three APGA-member gardens as well as several unaffiliated gardens. The Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks, and the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau are special places that provide opportunities for education, plant conservation, recreation, and research. The Alaskan gardening season doesn't correspond with the lower 48, so the late May date is an appropriate choice for our climate.

Public gardens have a measurable impact on the quality of life in a community and in Alaska, this is magnified. While Alaska boasts unparalleled scenic vistas, there are few opportunities for wandering in a cultivated garden setting. Throughout history, public garden settings have provided teaching space as well as space for contemplation and respite. And, public gardens help define a community's sense of longevity as well as its culture.

Please vote for this bill and in so doing, proclaim the vital role public gardens play in a sustainable and healthy Alaska.

Sincerely,



Lacey Ott  
2215 Pearl Road  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
907-376-9065

**From:** Donna Dinsmore [<mailto:ddinsmore@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2011 5:03 PM  
**To:** Merrill Jensen  
**Subject:** letter of support

Dear Representative Kerttula:

I am writing to give my full support to House Bill No. 18, An Act establishing Alaska Public Gardens Day on the Saturday immediately preceding Memorial Day each year.

I am the president of the Georgeson Botanical Garden Society, an organization formed to promote and support the Georgeson Botanical Garden at UAF. This garden, besides being a beautiful place to visit, provides valuable research essential to the growth of home gardens and the gardening industry.

Alaska is unique and has special needs. Gardening is a challenge in the north but the industry is growing and your support is necessary. "Sustainability" and "locavore" are buzz words used in today's media. Alaska's public gardens make these words a reality. Alaska's public gardens provide opportunities for education, plant conservation, recreation, and most important research.

Public gardens have an impact of the quality of life in the far north. After months of snow and a white landscape, a colorful flower gardens helps give us respite and peace of mind. Tourists are always amazed at the color, the beautiful flowers and the variety of vegetables grown in our gardens. Here in Fairbanks we can actually sit peacefully and watch the plants grow. The community values this special place.

Please vote for this bill and in so doing, proclaim the vital role public gardens play in a sustainable and healthy Alaska.

Sincerely,

Donna Dinsmore  
Georgeson Botanical Garden Society  
699 Gradelle  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
907-479-5265

# National Public Gardens Day is an annual celebration of the nation's public gardens to raise awareness of the important role botanical gardens and arboreta play in promoting environmental stewardship, plant and water conservation, green spaces, and education in communities nationwide.

May 6, 2011, National Public Gardens Day is a national day of celebration to raise awareness of America's public gardens and their important role in promoting environmental stewardship and awareness, plant and water conservation, and education in communities nationwide.

## **The Mission**

Presented by the non-profit American Public Garden's Association (APGA) in partnership with Rain Bird, both are committed to celebrating the environmental stewardship of North America's public gardens and their local, regional and national leadership in resourcing the nation's conservation and environmental education needs.

## **Activities**

National Public Gardens Day celebrates all public gardens, botanical gardens, educational gardens, specialty gardens, entertainment gardens, arboreta, farm gardens, historical landscapes, and zoos and each institution participates in their own unique way.

Many of the nation's public gardens will mark the day with special events and activities for schools, families and thousands of visitors to explore and discover their local public garden, while learning about each garden's commitment to education, research and environmental stewardship.

## **Timing**

National Public Gardens Day takes place annually on the Friday before Mother's Day, an unofficial start of spring and a time when the environment is top of mind for most of the public.

## **Benefit**

Public gardens are a fun activity for families, couples, and enthusiasts, providing a low-cost, entertaining, and beautiful community outing while providing important resources, education and research on environmental stewardship and conservation.



## **Third Annual National Public Gardens Day To Celebrate The Importance Of America's Public Gardens, May 6, 2011**

Posted on January 28, 2011 by [National Public Gardens Day](#)

**American Public Gardens Association Partners With Rain Bird To Pay Tribute To The Important Role of Public Gardens In Promoting Environmental Stewardship, Education, Plant And Water Conservation In Communities Nationwide**

**AZUSA, CA (February 1, 2011)** – Scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Friday preceding Mother's Day weekend, **National Public Gardens Day** is a national day of awareness in which communities nationwide are invited to visit and learn about the important role their public gardens play in promoting environmental stewardship and awareness, plant and water conservation, and education. Now in its third year celebrating America's public gardens, National Public Gardens Day was created in partnership between the American Public Gardens Association (APGA) and irrigation product and service provider, Rain Bird. The 2011 National Public Gardens Day will showcase the contributions of public gardens with special events at many of the more than 500 North American public gardens.

"National Public Gardens Day is not only a great time for families and enthusiasts to enjoy the gardens, but the public also witnesses the achievements and expertise provided by public gardens, especially in the area of environmental stewardship," said Dan Stark, executive director of the APGA. "Regardless of their size, all public gardens share a common commitment to providing outreach programs aimed at engaging their communities and educating future generations on the irreplaceable value of plants."

National Public Gardens Day will be supported by a local, regional and national awareness and education campaign that includes broadcast public service announcements, media partnerships, local and national spokespeople, online contests, and media tours all focused on communicating the importance of building sustainable environments through improved plant management and water conservation.

“As the event’s founding partner, Rain Bird seeks to create awareness of the role that public gardens play in promoting plant and water conservation in their communities,” said Dave Johnson, Rain Bird’s director of corporate marketing. “Our support of National Public Garden’s Day goes hand in hand with our company’s Intelligent Use of Water philosophy. We encourage the public to recognize that gardens are not just beautiful places and great sources of inspiration, but they are demonstrations of how green spaces can entertain, educate and inspire us all while positively contributing to the surrounding eco-system.”

In celebration of botanical gardens, arboreta, conservatories, educational gardens and historical landscapes, many of the APGA’s 500 member institutions will mark the day with special events and activities for schools, families and thousands of visitors. Many of the activities will continue through Mother’s Day weekend, offering visitors time to enjoy the beauty of the gardens while learning about each garden’s commitment to education, research and environmental stewardship.

For more information on National Public Gardens Day, visit [www.NationalPublicGardensDay.org](http://www.NationalPublicGardensDay.org), “LIKE” the National Public Gardens Day Facebook page and follow the National Public Gardens Day Twitter feed, @NPGD.

#### ABOUT RAIN BIRD

Based in Azusa, Calif., Rain Bird Corporation is the leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. Since its beginnings in 1933, Rain Bird has offered the industry’s broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes in more than 130 countries around the world. Rain Bird has been awarded more than 130 patents, including the first in 1935 for the impact **sprinkler**. Rain Bird and *The Intelligent Use of Water* is about using water wisely. Its commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for the industry and the community. Rain Bird maintains state-of-the-art manufacturing assembly facilities in the United States, France, Sweden and Mexico. [www.rainbird.com](http://www.rainbird.com)

#### ABOUT APGA

Founded in 1940, Pennsylvania-based American Public Gardens Association is an organization devoted to strengthening the public gardens throughout North America. With over 70 years of work increasing cooperation and awareness among the gardens, APGA has built a membership of more than 500 public gardens located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and seven other countries. Their members include public gardens as well as arboreta and zoos. APGA has also built up an international network of individual members in the U.S., Canada and 24 other countries. The APGA is committed to increasing public awareness for public gardens and supplying resources to the industry. Through their leadership and advocacy, public gardens have become vital to public appreciation and understanding of the irreplaceable value of plants. [www.publicgardens.org](http://www.publicgardens.org)

## Senator Durbin on the Senate Floor

Posted on December 21, 2010 by National Public Gardens Day

On Senate Record, May 6, 2010:

### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this May 7 is National Public Gardens Day, a day for us to celebrate the important role public gardens play in our communities and throughout our Nation. Across this great country, more than 500 public gardens are keeping our Nation connected to our natural world, our history, and our culture. These public gardens include arboreta, botanical gardens, zoos, historic landscapes, college campuses, and children's gardens.

Together they form a web that preserves the beauty and complexity of plants and animals and humanity's interaction with them. There is a great thirst for the knowledge and experiences public gardens can provide. Gardening is the most popular hobby in the United States, and more than 70 million people visit public gardens annually. People from all backgrounds, age groups, and geographic regions regularly share in the beauty and serenity of natural spaces such as our public gardens.

Here in Washington, DC, just across the street from the Capitol, is the U.S. Botanic Garden. Called "America's Garden," it is a gateway for people to enjoy the beauty of plants while learning about the role plants play in commerce, culture, and kinship. The United States Botanic Garden is also responsible for helping to preserve and maintain the Capitol Grounds, which are enjoyed by over 3 million people who visit the Capitol every year.

In my own home State of Illinois, our 32 public gardens include wonderful and varied institutions, such as the Morton Arboretum and the Quad City Botanical Center, places such as the Cantigny Foundation and the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park. Among Illinois' valued public gardens is the Chicago Botanic Garden, which serves nearly 1 million visitors annually.

Its classes are attended by 57,000 visitors, well over half of them schoolage children. Millions of schoolchildren have been educated by public gardens about the wonders of nature and the important role of plants in our everyday lives, from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the homes we live in. The Chicago Botanic Garden has hosted 22,000 children on field trips in the past year, providing opportunities for them to interact with nature—a special opportunity for some who may never otherwise get to see a real meadow or visit a lake.

Public gardens are not only committed to growing plants; they are committed to growing minds. As a result, public gardens everywhere are partnering extensively with local schools, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and civic associations.

Together they have worked on projects ranging from habitat restoration to landscape beautification, as well as on school-based education programs, public health education programs, and community and school gardens.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is a wonderful example of the partnerships occurring between our public gardens and our colleges. Its Windy City Harvest program partners with City Colleges of Chicago to provide summer jobs and hands-on training for teenagers at sustainable agriculture sites within Chicago. Through this partnership, participants

are trained in producing high-value organic produce, which is sold at retail outlets and is made available to local residents. Program participants not only gain important entrepreneurial skills, they learn where their food comes from and the value in nurturing plant life.

We can rely on public gardens to deliver timely and critical resources for plant and water conservation, ecosystem management, green space preservation, and environmental stewardship.

Visitors to public gardens have the opportunity to view regionally appropriate landscapes that preserve our precious natural resources—and give them ideas for creating their own. Public gardens also serve as repositories for rare and endangered plant species. The research conducted by public gardens on these endangered plant species can be crucial to their survival.

Through their conservation and propagation efforts, many plants that would have been lost to us forever through extinction have been saved.

Therefore, this May 7 we should celebrate our public gardens and the many contributions they make to our communities.

# What Can I Learn From A Public Garden?



Denver Botanic Gardens

## **Water Conservation**

Public gardens utilize efficient watering practices and have industry insight on responsible irrigation systems. Homeowners can learn how to irrigate their own gardens by exploring and consulting with their local public garden.

## **Native and Adaptable Plants**

Choosing native plants or plants that have adapted to a local environment can ensure a garden will be healthy and require less water. Public gardens have huge collections of native and adaptable plants that homeowners can be assured will work in their own gardens.

## **Landscape Design**

Homeowners can find sources of inspiration in botanic gardens from the design of gardens, the types of plants used in particular environments, the selection of plants that do well in particular geographical locations, and the way gardens are displayed, coordinated, and arranged. Landscaping at public gardens can demonstrate what plants bloom at similar times, what arrangements look well together, and how gardens can be beautifully displayed.

## **Geographical Considerations**

Different plants are healthier in different geographical regions and it is difficult to know before purchasing at a nursery, what plants will do well in a homeowner's garden. Public gardens put on display a broad selection of plants that succeed in a homeowner's region. Knowing that a plant, tree, or flower grows well in a public garden can assist consumers on knowing what will grow well in their own gardens.

### **Seasonal Considerations**

Public gardens have a selection of plants that are perfect for a variety of seasons. Many plants can still thrive in colder and drier seasons. Additionally, blooms can happen year round if the appropriate types of plants or trees are selected. Keeping a homeowner's garden beautiful all year can be accomplished by seeing how public gardens arrange their own collection.

### **Gardening Methods**



Descanso Gardens

Public gardens have staff dedicated to botany and are also home to specialists that understand a particular geographical region very well. Homeowners can access these industry experts at their local public garden and receive advise on gardening techniques for plants they have in their own gardens.

### **Publications**

Public gardens have publications available to visitors and members that provide ample resources on gardening and botany. The average consumer can find a wealth of knowledge in member publications and, in addition, often have access to libraries and bookstores within the public gardens as well.

### **Plants and Supplies**

Public gardens will often sell plants, flowers and trees to garden members during annual festivals, providing top quality additions to homeowner's gardens. With the sale comes professional experience and advice of the sort that cannot be found in nurseries or hardware stores.

**The Office of The Mayor  
City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska**

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum, is holding a celebration in honor of the inspiration and beauty public gardens bring to every community; and

**WHEREAS**, May 29, 2010 will be a day of celebration to raise awareness of public gardens and the role they play in promoting environmental stewardship, education, plant conservation, recreation, and research; and

**WHEREAS**, public gardens are special places that both teach and inspire life-long learning in the natural sciences for thousands of visitors and also preserve the beauty of the landscape for pure aesthetic enjoyment; and

**WHEREAS**, gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress, and teaches that bountiful rewards come from diligent efforts.

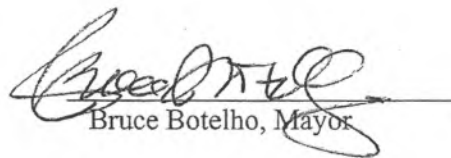
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bruce Botelho, Mayor of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, on behalf of the City and Borough Assembly, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 29, 2010, as:

***Public Gardens Day in Juneau***

and call upon the citizens of Juneau to promote stewardship of our bountiful plant and garden resources.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, to be affixed this 29th day of May, 2010.



  
Bruce Botelho, Mayor

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* by *Governor Sean Parnell*

WHEREAS, Alaska's public gardens teach and inspire interest in the natural sciences, appreciation for the bounty of the earth, and are a place of beauty for the thousands of visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, public gardens promote environmental stewardship, education, outdoor recreation, and research in plant conservation; and

WHEREAS, the exquisite beauty of Alaska's public gardens is the result of the efforts of dedicated caretakers who maintain and care for our gardens, and whose efforts create beautiful public spaces for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, public gardens provide a unique insight into the cultural and historical significance of Alaska's indigenous plants, serving as a reminder of the landscape that surrounded and sustained our ancestors, and a valuable education tool; and

WHEREAS, by fostering a love of nature in younger generations, we encourage them to grow into responsible, aware citizens; and

WHEREAS, public gardens are an invaluable place of learning, and should be appreciated for their educational value and the beauty they bring to our great state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 29, 2010 as:

### *Alaska Public Gardens Day*

in Alaska, and encourage citizens to visit the public gardens in their communities, and enjoy the educational and recreational opportunities they offer.

Dated: May 28, 2010



Handwritten signature of Sean Parnell in cursive script.

*Sean Parnell, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*