



**GFWC Florida**  
GENERAL FEDERATION *of* WOMEN'S CLUBS  
*living the volunteer spirit*

Sept. 23-26 2022

### Overview:

The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages awareness of our natural resources and caring for the world around us. It offers information and ideas to promote environmental appreciation and protection. Work to preserve, maintain, and restore our natural resources; protect habitats for plants and animals; and develop sustainable habits.

Environmental education; care for our air, land, and water; recycling; litter cleanup; partnerships with community groups, schools, and children; support of wildlife; energy conservation; tree planting; and beautification – this is what the Environment Community Service Program is all about. Work to become more aware of conservation issues, enrich your communities, and become stewards of the environment.

GFWC Florida clubwomen design and support conservation activities in their local communities.



### **Project Ideas:**

- \*Nature Walks—with your club members, lead an after school walk for young students.
- \*Host a watch party for a documentary of nature, environmental issues in your community.
- \*Identify where and how to recycle toxic items---share, advertise its schedule of collections from the city.
- \*Host a community recycling drive where people donate lightly used items to support local charity organizations.
- \*Work with Gardening Club, Master Gardener's, Botanical Gardens have them come in to demonstrate planting of native plant species.
- \*Develop a demonstration garden or landscaping plot to encourage restoration of the local natural habitat and water conservation.
- \*Preschools or early learning centers—plan a time to go in and demo this planting & have kids plant a flower. Teach the next generation the love of plants, vegetables, flowers, bee and our environment around them.
- \*Organize a bicycle clinic-police could help with this, or local bike shop to help educate and encourage more bike riding-(less car emissions used.)
- \*Public Transportation in the City- Get Maps/Guides/ Schedules to give out to help encourage or make aware of public transportation.
- \*Create Bird Boxes--- creates safe havens for birds throughout your community.
- \*Create Bird Sanctuary in your community. Could possibly work with local wildlife organizations to make this happen.
- \*Create Frog Bog.
- \*Create Butterfly Garden in your local community. Local churches, parks or community centers perfect place.

\*Encourage trips to local gardens, botanical gardens, or nature trail as a possible lunch and learn.

\*Find out from local parks—if they have guide maps where all local parks are in your area, distribute them and help spread word for families to take day fun trips there!

\*Plan a wildlife refuge trip/visit and learn about what and how they do. Maybe fundraise with an event to give them funds & your club gets lots of exposure in community for your efforts.

Go to [www.DefendersofWildlife](http://www.DefendersofWildlife) and they will help you sign petitions and contact your representatives about protecting animals.

\***EARTH DAY—April 22** every year!!! Day that people plan to help, protect, preserve and improve the planet we all share!

\*Organize a day of recycling at your club! Local city officials in waste authority can possibly help.

\*Do your part use steel straws, reusable stainless steel straws or none at all.

\*Plan a Hike---where you can go for a Bird Watch.

\*Clothes- Donate your unwanted, used clothes to local shelter.

\*Business Clothes/Attire-Donate to local SafeSpace or where they can help women get back to work.

\*Tennis Balls-Donate to local nursing home to put on bottom walkers—call first.

-Put at end of broom—to get cobwebs

-Repurpose tennis balls to make dog toys

---Recycle Tennis Balls--- [www.RecycleBalls.org](http://www.RecycleBalls.org) they will provide pre-paid shipping and provides tax donation for every ball donated.

\*Make Recycling Ink Cartridges a project and get paid for it.... [www.inkcartridges.com](http://www.inkcartridges.com)

\* Paper Shredding Project for your club—call paper shredding companies in your area

\*Food Scraps Compost----build one

\*Plant Pollinating Flowers to help give bees a job. They are important to the world.

\*Bring attention to local parks as GFWC Greater West Palm Beach Woman's Club does—they gather, brainstorm, discuss service projects. Has sign which attracts potential new members.

\*Painting Rocks with positive messages to place all over the community. Everyone needs positive.

\*GFWC Satellite Beach Woman's Club-has a grant to provide a community garden landscape in front of the library. (Planted Sunflowers)

\*Host a council person to address resident concerns & questions regarding sewer improvements & public safety.

\*July 9-Woman's Club of Coconut Grove took part in a electronics recycling day drive thru/ household batteries and tabletop electronics.

\* Woman's Club of Plant City— worked with TREX to get a bench donated 500 pounds of plastic film for this project. Bench will now be placed in playground/park.

TREX program.....go to [www.nextrex.com](http://www.nextrex.com) for details of what to collect &not.

\*Pollinator/Bee Projects

\*Mangrove Projects-- Sea Grass etc..

\* Water Issues—get involved.

\* Everglades Project

\* Beach Clean ups-- can go to [www.volunteercleanup.org](http://www.volunteercleanup.org) and they can help locate areas in need of volunteers..

\*Street Clean Up----Adopt A Street ----3 Clubs Fort Pierce Woman's Club, Bradenton Woman's Club, and GFWC Wesley Chapel Woman's Club, Tampa W Club did.... Can apply for sign on the street to get you recognized as a Club. (Contact City)

\*Find out about adopting a local park for cleanup or to maintain trails. Ask about Club signage.

\*Kathryn Gallagher President of Rotunda West W Club- shared valuable information about new recycling labels!! There is a new standard...go to [www.How2Recycle.com](http://www.How2Recycle.com) to look & learn about it all.

\*Change to energy saving lightbulbs.

\*Lakeland Woman's Club—is taking charge and working with their city to educate their community about what it means to not put used cooking oil down sink.

\*Set time limit for your showers to reduce water consumption. Or Sprinklers

\*Encourage members to use reusable water bottle vs disposable bottles.

\*Collect old cell phones to donate to individuals in need.

\*Collect old blankets, sheets, and towels and donate to humane society.

\*Recognize a local organization or community leader for their efforts in environment conservation.

\*Plant a Tree—restores our environment & improves the well being of all communities. Examples: schools, churches, local child development centers, any organization that may not be maintained by the city.

\* Promote a PHOTO contest thru city Everyone that plants a Tree in a time frame--have a little ceremony at club house for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> places! It brings attention to club and your efforts. And their organization as well.

\*Order butterflies and have watch party of Facebook and have a release party at club of the butterflies.

\*Educate people about butterflies and their roles.

\*One club took in cupcakes into young children's class room-cupcakes with worms in them. Taught kids the importance of worms for the earth.

\* [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) ---Goats, Heifers, Flock of Chicks, Sheep, Alpaca, Water for Life, Dream Basket, Send a Girl to School...funds can be raised for any of these for a family/community! Fundraiser by local BBQ place giving a % of meals to Heifer. And they had Jar for extra donations!!! Were able to buy full pig for money raised. They called it a PIG OUT!!

\*Sons of Revolution planting of a Liberty Tree at your club. Have ceremony to bring aware of tree planting.

### **\*COMMUNITY GARDEN EFFORT----BIG FOCUS THIS YEAR!!!**

Think about how good it would be to put one at homeless shelter, school, day care centers, nursing homes, assistant living place, and even private schools. If Not Full Garden what about setting planters up in front of these areas.

\*Plant a community garden for an area and set up a day to explain how/ what was planted for all the people of the community to either just soak up the beauty of the flowers, bees, and butterflies, etc.... using it. Or how about an apartment complex, that might benefit from a vegetable garden to help people that might be having a hard time with food.

- Educate groups on community gardens, be guest speaker of 4H Clubs, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Eagles, FFA Clubs, Master Gardening Club maybe pairing up with them to help

expand on how to help community in a broader way! Books are available on Amazon about Community Gardens too to possible help educate!!



**BEE EARTH FRIENDLY!!!! BE COMMUNITY GARDEN GIVING!!!!**



**FOR MORE HEALTHY LIVING!!!! Make sure to report Community Gardens of any type! Will be tracking which District has most new gardens created!!! And Don't FORGET about the NEW MAY MANN JENNINGS AWARD!!**

Jerry Koedyker 804-731-6119 [environment@gfwcflorida.org](mailto:environment@gfwcflorida.org)