

PLANNING A BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT



The most important key to a successful project is to start early and make plans. Know your project and the area you will be working in before you start. Make sure your project location is appropriate for your volunteer group.

- Take “before” photographs of your project area. These will be needed for any post-event or grant reports and are a great way to track your progress.
- Garden centers will help you create a good sustainable plan which includes perennial, native, low-maintenance, and drought-tolerant plants. If you are looking to create specialty gardens like butterfly gardens, they can help with that as well. There are often grants and other funding available for plantings that include a pollinator garden. You should bring a photograph of your project when visiting your nursery specialist. Many garden centers can pre-order your plants and have them ready for you to pick up all at one time. Remember to ask these centers for a discount on your plants. When selecting your plants, consider planting in large masses of the same plants of the same color. This is eye-catching and attractive to wildlife. Recruit volunteers for your project. Your neighbors, friends, and co-workers may jump at a chance to give back to the community. Some other suggestions are military personnel, local businesses, and churches. Some ways you can promote your event are through word of mouth, flyers, newsletters, websites, social media, meeting announcements, and school calendars.
- Make sure you have someone designated to maintain your project throughout the year, especially in the hot summer months when students and staff may be limited. Decide who will do the necessary maintenance on your project during the year. Funding will need to be available to replant and add mulch as necessary.
- Before you start planting, be sure to contact No Cuts (PUPS) at 1-888-721-7877 so utility lines will be marked before you plant. If there is irrigation, make sure you know where the lines run in the garden.
- Recruit volunteers for your project. Your neighbors, friends, and co-workers may jump at a chance to give back to the community. You can promote your event through word of mouth, newsletters, websites, social media, meeting announcements, and community calendars.
- Secure all equipment and supplies. This includes landscaping supplies and water for your volunteers. If you need any items, ask for donations from your neighbors or area businesses. If volunteers bring tools, make sure it is marked with their name so that it can be returned. Send a donation request letter well in advance stating your specific needs to businesses and then follow up with a call or visit. You may also ask local restaurants or grocery stores to donate refreshments for your event.
- Lastly, have a fun, safe, and rewarding project. Remember to take lots of photographs and thank your sponsors and volunteers for their support and hard work. Thank you for helping us make North Charleston bloom with beauty!



KEEP NORTH CHARLESTON BEAUTIFUL

www.keepnorthcharlestonbeautiful.org