



Gardeners...we need YOU!

to help us provide gardening services for people who are unable to tend to their gardens.

Do you:



have some experience of gardening?



like helping people?



feel that you are physically fit or perhaps would like to save on gym fees?



have approximately 5 hours a week to spare?

We offer you:



a chance to help others in the community



We also pay for your reasonable out of pocket expenses

Please note that the work is sometimes extremely physical.

Background to the scheme

The project was set up in 1996 to provide a voluntary gardening service to people who would not otherwise be able to get the work done.

It was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2007.

We can also carry out management of your small open spaces

The team is also open to taking on the gardening management of small local open spaces, either for Councils, Housing Associations, Churches, Business Parks etc. If you have such spaces and feel you could benefit from the team taking on your work then contact us to arrange for us to provide you with a quote.

Contact granville@vcaec.org.uk or ring 01353 666166.

Who can use the service?

If you live in East Cambs and find it difficult to maintain your own garden then why not try our service?

We can also assist you if you live outside the area, but priority will be given to East Cambridgeshire residents. Additional charges may be incurred if you live outside of East Cambs.

HELPING HANDS GARDENING SCHEME



Operated by
VCAEC



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How it works

If you have limited mobility, first contact the Helping Hands organiser to see if you qualify for our help.

The Helping Hands gardening teams consists of a supervisor, and a group of volunteers.

These volunteers may be:



people with additional support needs;



young people who are working towards their Youth Community Action Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards;



people who have been unemployed for a long time.

Statistics

Between 2018-2019 the scheme has:

1. Assisted 302 customers with their gardens
2. Volunteered 6,675 hours



The costs

The assessment and planning is free, but we rely on grants and

donations to maintain our service. We suggest a donation of **£25** an hour, which pays for up to four volunteers working in your garden. The cost covers our office overheads, tool servicing and petrol.

Our main area of work is within East Cambridgeshire. If you live outside of this we may be able to assist but additional costs such as mileage may be added. This will be discussed at the time of booking.



Tools and implements

All the tools and implements that are required to complete the work will be provided by us. You will need to pay

for the materials, e.g. gravel and the plants.

Customer Feedback

In our last survey carried out in 2019, twenty five out of 26 respondents said that they would use the scheme again.

A couple of their comments:

"I have nothing but praise for your team. They arrive on time, work extremely hard and are unfailingly polite. Steve, the Team leader even gives us gardening advice."

"We found the service very good. Your workmen were very pleasant, worked hard and cleared and removed all the cuttings. A very worthwhile service, and hope that continues to flourish and grow".

Data Protection

Please note that by using this service you agree to your details being kept on our database. This information will not be shared with any other agencies. Once you cease to use our service your details will be removed.