

# Community Green Spaces



## Hi There!

City Blossoms is an organization dedicated to fostering healthy communities by developing creative, kid-driven green spaces. We accomplish our mission through five programs: Early Growers, School Garden Partners, Youth Entrepreneurship Cooperative, Community Green Spaces, and Training & Resource Development. Our work incorporates free or affordable in-school and after school programming, parent and community engagement, access to free resources, and teacher coaching opportunities. These activities are tailored to meet the needs of each community.

## City Blossoms' Field trip Program

We create Community Green Spaces to act as hubs for community organizations, schools, businesses, and neighbors to share common, safe, green spaces. The Community Green Spaces are interactive, communal, and children-focused gardens that transform unused and under-used land into green spaces where youth and adults can interact with their natural environment and explore their creativity. Through this program, we offer hands-on, garden-based field trips at three of our Community Green Spaces (CGS) for preschool through high school groups.

## Availability

April-October

Mornings **Tuesday through Friday\***

(canceled for heavy rain, thunder storms and temperatures exceeding 100)

\*Availability may depend on garden site.

## Where?

### ***Girard Children's Community Garden***

1480 Girard St. NW Washington, DC  
(near Columbia Heights Metro)

### ***Marion St. Intergenerational Garden***

1519 Marion St. NW Washington, DC  
(near Shaw/Howard Metro)

### ***The Farm at Kelly Miller's Youth Garden***

301 49<sup>th</sup> St. NE Washington, DC  
(behind Kelly Miller Middle School, near Benning Rd. Station)

### ***The Farm at Fort Stanton's Youth Garden***

1812 Erie St SE Washington DC  
(behind the Fort Stanton Recreation Center)

## Cost

We want to get as many students out in our greenspaces as possible, so City Blossoms covers the costs associated with field trips such as staff time, materials, and maintenance for safe, engaging green spaces. We have a \$10 booking fee, but work with schools if this is a barrier.

## What to Bring?

Working in gardens can be a little messy, so student should wear close-toed shoes, and weather-appropriate clothing that can get dirty. We highly encourage bringing drinking water, snacks, bug spray





## Themes

City Blossoms offers an assortment of field trip experiences, which are each designed to support learning standards. Check out the themes below. Interested in a particular focus? If you don't see what you're looking for, we also may be able to tailor a field trip to your class.

### ***Garden Senses - Preschool to Kindergarten***

Exploring the garden through the five senses. Young gardeners will have the opportunity to categorize natural elements through hands-on activities, such as harvesting, cooking, and tasting fresh garden produce.

### ***Compost and Creepy Crawlies - 1st Grade\****

Investigating compost and the world inside of it. Budding scientists will discover how different decomposers (i.e. worms, mites, and more) find what they need to live in this very active habitat. Students can also connect the world of compost to our own food system through harvesting, cooking, and tasting fresh garden produce. \*This theme is only available at certain sites.

### ***Pollination and Pollinators - 2nd Grade***

Examining the lives of our local pollinators. Students will identify major pollinators (i.e. bees, bats, butterflies, and birds), learn about their important relationships to plants, and help make pollinator habitats like mason bee hotels.

### ***Plant Parts and Life Cycle - 3rd Grade***

Inspecting plant parts and their purpose in the plant life-cycle. Beginner Botanists will explore plant anatomy by either designing botanical works of art from observation or creating a "6-plant-part" recipe.

### ***The Purpose of a Flower - 4th Grade***

Exploring how flowers are a plant's way of advertising to specific pollinators. Young scientists will reinforce the connection by inventing their own flowers to attract particular pollinators. Alternatively, young chefs can explore the different structures of a plant by creating a "6-plant-part" recipe.

### ***Decomposers - 5th Grade\****

Investigating the process of decomposition in the compost pile and the interdependent lives of different organisms in the garden ecosystem. Students can also connect the world of decomposition to our own food system through harvesting, cooking, and tasting fresh garden produce. \*Only available at certain sites.

### ***Interdependent Ecosystems - Middle School***

Considering the different components of the garden ecosystem and how dependent they are on one another. Students will further develop an understanding of these relationships through a large-scale illustration. They can also explore the dependence of the food system on healthy ecosystems through harvesting, cooking and eating fresh, garden produce.

### ***The real cost of food - High School***

Understanding the energy that goes into food. Students will gain insight into the work that goes into a meal by getting their hands dirty in the garden. Young chefs will then learn about the food system and its impact on the environment through harvesting, cooking, and tasting a recipe with fresh garden produce.

***For more information*** visit our website or contact [isa@cityblossoms.org](mailto:isa@cityblossoms.org). Interested in organizing more than one field trip? City Blossoms can work with teachers to create ongoing experiences for students.

