UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden and Tree Davis
Native Plant Gardening Volunteer Training – Fall 2013
Frequently Asked Questions

This sheet will answer many of the most common questions for prospective volunteers. If you have questions not answered here, please contact Roxanne Reynolds at (530) 752-4880 or rgloe@ucdavis.edu.

Why is this training being offered?
The UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden and Tree Davis are seeking volunteers to assist with the planting, establishment and stewardship of two adjacent sites: a new native plant garden at the east end of the Arboretum and a habitat restoration area on the City of Davis Putah Creek Parkway greenbelt. This training will serve as a kick-off for creating two new independent volunteer teams that will assist with the development and maintenance of these gardens.

Where and when will the training be held?
The training will be held on Friday mornings from 9 am to noon, October 25 to December 13 (excluding the week of Thanksgiving) and January 10 to 24. The first three training sessions will include a lecture portion indoors (location TBD) and a field trip to a garden or restoration site. The remaining trainings will be held at the east end of the Arboretum and on the Putah Creek Parkway in conjunction with hands-on gardening activities.

What topics will be covered in the training?
The training will include introductions to gardening with CA native plants, improving habitat for native wildlife and insects, the natural history of the Putah Creek watershed, and horticultural techniques, such as planting, mulching, weed ID and control, irrigation, pruning, and grass and wildflower management.

Who will lead the training?
The training will be led by expert horticultural staff from the UC Davis Arboretum & Public Garden and Tree Davis. Instructors will include Director of GATEways Horticulture Emily Griswold, GATEways Horticulturist Stacey Parker, Director of Public Horticulture Ellen Zagory, Tree Davis Executive Director Keith McAleer, and Putah Creek Riparian Reserve Director Andrew Fulks.

When are applications due?
Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, October 16th for consideration for this program.

Are applicants guaranteed a spot in the training?
We anticipate a strong demand for this training program, and we have a limited number of spaces available. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee all applicants a spot in the training. After reviewing the applications, we will notify applicants by Friday, October 18th about their admission into the training. For those who are not invited to participate, we can keep your application on record for future training opportunities.

Is there a cost associated with the training?
Yes, there is a $35 course materials fee, due on the first day of training, that will cover the cost of a textbook, a training binder, and gardening gloves. Please let us know if this expense poses a hardship, and we can provide a limited number of fee waivers. The fee is payable by cash or a check made out to UC Davis Arboretum.
What commitment is required for this volunteer program?
We are seeking volunteers who would like to make a regular commitment to participate in gardening work days on Friday mornings from 9 am to noon throughout the year. We ask that training participants make a minimum 1-year commitment to this program while understanding that everyone has periodic vacations and appointments that interfere with volunteer days.

What kinds of work will volunteers perform? What are the physical requirements?
Volunteers will assist with the physical care of a native plant garden and habitat restoration area which will include activities such as planting, pruning, mulching, weeding, and litter pick-up. The ideal volunteer will have the ability to lift 30 pounds and be physically able to perform tasks related to gardening: bending, squatting, shoveling, hoeing, digging, safely traversing slopes, and hauling of garden debris. Work days are cancelled in the event of rain or extreme weather, but otherwise volunteers work in outdoor weather conditions (hot, cold, windy, etc.) year round.

What are the benefits of volunteering?
Volunteers will have the opportunity to develop an in-depth knowledge of Central Valley habitats and native plant gardening both via the training and through ongoing access to expert staff. Volunteers enjoy the camaraderie and social connections associated with working in a group and the shared pride of physically improving a public landscape.