

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?

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

have approximately 4 hours a week to spare?

like helping people?

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

gardening@vcaec.org.uk or ring 01353 666566.

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?

HELPING HANDS GARDENING SCHEME



Operated by
VCAEC



01353 666556

email

gardening@vcaec.org.uk

www.vcaec.org.uk

VCAEC, Rear Offices, 24 Barton Rd, Ely, CB7 4DE

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 paid supervisor, and a group of volunteers.

These volunteers may be:

- people with additional support needs; such as dementia or brain injury
- people who have been unemployed for a long time.

Statistics

Between 2022/23 the scheme has:

Assisted 254 customers with their gardens



The costs

The assessment and planning is free, but we rely on grants and donations to maintain our service. The cost will be discussed at assessment, which pays for up to 3 volunteers working in your garden. The cost covers our office overheads, tool servicing and petrol.

Our 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 and travel time may be added. This will be discussed at the assessment.



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."

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.

Social Media

We are on Facebook and Twitter using @vcaec and we have a website too www.vcaec.org.uk