



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?

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.

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 carry out management of your small open spaces

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

Social Media



@vcaec



@vcaec

website www.vcaec.org.uk

HELPING HANDS GARDENING SCHEME



VCAEC



01353 666556

email

gardening@vcaec.org.uk

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

How it works

If you are unable to tend to your garden due to ill health, disability and live in East Cambs – contact us.

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

These volunteers may be:

- people with additional support needs;
- people who have been unemployed for a while.
- People who just want to help others in their community.

What we can help with

We can assist with general gardening such as grass cutting.

We also carry out complete garden clearances.



(before)



(after)

Statistics

Between 2023/24 the scheme has:

- ✓ Assisted 256 customers with their gardens
- ✓ volunteers offered 1,835 hours to help others tend to their gardens.



The costs

The assessment and planning is free, but we rely on grants and donations to maintain our service. If we have adequate funding we offer our services for free, otherwise a suggested donation will be discussed at assessment. The cost covers our office overheads, tool servicing and petrol. We usually have 3 volunteers working in your garden.



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 any materials, e.g. gravel and plants.

Customer Feedback

In our last survey carried out in 2023, twenty five out of 26 respondents said that they would use the scheme again.

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.