



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 24, 2013

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: National Public Gardens Day and Santa Barbara Public Gardens Collaborative

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission hear a report on the Santa Barbara Public Gardens Collaborative and activities planned for National Public Gardens Day and May is Garden Month in Santa Barbara.

DISCUSSION:

Parks and Recreation is partnering once again with national and community organizations, to celebrate National Public Gardens Day on Friday, May 10, 2013. Based on the tremendous success of last year's efforts, the partnership has expanded both the number of partners and activities for 2013.

The partnership, now officially known as the Santa Barbara Public Gardens Partnership, is a county-wide collaboration whose mission is to promote awareness of our unique and inspiring public gardens, celebrate their beauty and benefits, and encourage their year-round enjoyment by visitors and residents of the Santa Barbara community. The Parks and Recreation Director serves on the steering committee along with the Executive Directors from Lotusland, Casa del Herrero, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The 2013 partnership collaborative has grown to include 16 Santa Barbara organizations, with two national and five local sponsors, including the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

Similar to last year, National Public Gardens Day, Friday, May 10, 2013, will feature a number of special tours, activities and programs around the community. New this year, activities celebrating public gardens and gardening will be conducted throughout the entire month of May with the theme of "May is Public Gardens Appreciation Month in Santa Barbara." For complete information on programs and activities, please visit sbpublicgardens.org.

Parks and Recreation will be featured in two major programs this year. Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden will join Lotusland and Casa del Herrero as part of the very popular

Garden Lovers Tour. Open to the public, docent led tours will be offered on Friday, May 10th for \$50. Advance registration is required, see website for more information. Tours of Alice will be led by Grant Castleberg, Billy Goodnick, Virginia Hayes, and Carol Terry. Also, the Department is coordinating a new Garden Talks series which will be held every week of May, featuring some of Santa Barbara's most notable experts. See the attached flier on the Garden Talks, or visit the [sbpublicgardens.org website](http://sbpublicgardens.org) for more information.

ATTACHMENT(S): 1. Santa Barbara Public Gardens Partnership 2013 flyer
2. May is Garden Month in Santa Barbara, Garden Talks flyer

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director