



MATPRA

MID-ATLANTIC TOURISM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALLIANCE

The Mid-Atlantic Showcases Beautiful Gardens and Arboretums Each Spring

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, March 13, 2018) - From visits to wildflower fields and tours of arboretums, there is no better way to kick off the spring season than to get out and enjoy the sunshine at a gorgeous garden around the Mid-Atlantic region. The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance ([MATPRA](#)) invites you to pick one (or more!) of these picturesque locations to visit during your next spring escape.

Interested in learning more about a beautiful garden or arboretum around the region? Email the contact in the description below for specific information.

Delaware

Greater Wilmington

Founded with a visionary approach to conservation, Mt. Cuba Center is dedicated to the preservation of flora and fauna native to the Piedmont Region and definitely worth a visit. Explore the living collection of native plants and naturalistic habitats, and pleasing mix of formal gardens, allées, ponds and wildflowers. *Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, VisitWilmingtonDE.com, lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com*

Maryland

Calvert County

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center features a wooded walking path that meanders past works on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. All ages enjoy a variety of events and art programs in a beautiful garden setting with its collection of azaleas, butterfly garden, and a variety of other native plants. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Katie Brittain, ChooseCalvert.com, info@ecalvert.com*

Frederick County

Hundreds of garden enthusiasts descend upon historic Downtown Frederick for the chance to explore the elegant, whimsical, and inventive gardens nestled behind the gates of private Frederick homes each spring during the Beyond the Garden Gates Tour. Visitors are also treated to live plein air artists in the gardens. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, VisitFrederick.org, mmuntz@fredco-md.net*

Hagerstown - Washington County

The Fantastical Garden, located along the Hagerstown Cultural Trail in downtown Hagerstown, is an interactive play area that features whimsical, moving flora sculptures. It is complemented

by a beautiful butterfly garden that includes Black-eyed Susans, the Maryland state flower; native rocks, and a trickling water feature. *Visit Hagerstown, Betsy DeVore, VisitHagerstown.com, betsy@visithagerstown.com*

Harford County

Stroll through the 22 acres of Gardens, view over 100 topiaries, tour the historic Manor House, visit the seasonal Butterfly House, or hike the Nature Walk to appreciate the unique beauty and charm of Ladew Gardens; named one of the "10 incredible topiary gardens around the world" by Architectural Digest. *Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider, VisitHarford.com, mindy@visitharford.com*

Howard County

Howard County positively blossoms in spring. Over 1,800 Kwanzan Cherry blossom trees line roadways and park paths, the Brighton Dam Azalea Garden is an amazing backdrop for spring photo shoots, and Whipps Garden Cemetery is a unique destination for gardening enthusiasts. *Visit Howard County, Crystal Abrom, VisitHowardCounty.com, crystal@howardcountytourism.com*

Kent County

The Inn at Huntingfield Creek, in Rock Hall, is a perfect destination for garden enthusiasts. Wander from your cottage or the main Inn, past the saltwater pool to the stunning lavender field and gorgeous sunflower field, both poised to serve as perfect back drops in your vacation photos. *Kent County Tourism, Bernadette Bowman, KentCounty.com, mdawson@kentgov.org*

Wicomico County

Salisbury University's campus is a picturesque arboretum. Discover various types of plants along with sculptures on the college campus. Learn more and see a map at www.salisbury.edu/arboretum/. *Wicomico County, Vanessa Junkin, WicomicoTourism.org, vjunkin@wicomicocounty.org*

Pennsylvania

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stop and smell the flowers in Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh's Phipps Conservatory is celebrating 125 years in 2018, Philadelphia's Bartram's Garden is one of the oldest botanic gardens in the U.S., and don't forget Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square to see its stunning fountain renovation! *Pennsylvania Tourism Office, Natalie Buyny, VisitPA.com, nbuyny@tierneyagency.com*

Central Pennsylvania

The Penn State Arboretum is a beautiful collection of gardens for all ages completed in 2009. Often a favorite of photographers and gardeners, the gardens are full of hundreds of species of flowers, trees, plants, and more. The arboretum is free to visit and is a short walk from campus.

Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert, VisitPennState.org, andy@visitpennstate.org

Chester County

The Brandywine Valley is home to Longwood Gardens, the world's premier horticultural display garden. Situated on 1,077 acres, Longwood features exquisite flowers, majestic trees, dazzling fountains, an extravagant four-acre conservatory, starlit theatre and thunderous organ. Longwood is open every day of the year with an exceptional seasonal array of events. *Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau, Nina Kelly, BrandywineValley.com, nina@brandywinevalley.com*

Endless Mountains

The glorious gardens at Lambertson's Brookside Daylillies in the Endless Mountains are a summer destination celebrating glorious daylillies, mixed phlox, varieties of hostas, ground cover, mixed bee balm, mixed iris, and other plants. Gardeners can also pick up plants for their own gardens! *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Morgan Christopher, EndlessMountains.org, sales@endlessmountains.org*

Erie

Goodell Gardens & Homestead is a non-profit botanical garden and arboretum located in Edinboro. The purpose of Goodell Gardens & Homestead is to create an education-oriented botanical garden and arboretum on the 78-acre Goodell family farm by emulating the Goodell family passion for gardening and horticulture. *VisitErie, Christine Temple, VisitErie.com, cvb1@visiterie.com*

Franklin County

Your great moments are waiting in Franklin County and among the scenic sites are beautiful gardens. Conococheague Institute in Mercersburg has beautiful rose gardens that bloom and German 4-square gardens, to demonstrate how early gardening was done. In addition, work is done to local gardens by The Franklin County Gardeners. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau, Lauren E. Cappuccio, ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com, lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com*

Hershey Harrisburg

Hershey Gardens is a 23-acre botanical oasis with 30,000 tulips in springtime and 5,000 roses every summer, plus 11 magnificent themed gardens, colorful seasonal displays, a children's garden, and a 16,000-square-foot conservatory that opened in July 2016 with a rare year-round tropical butterfly atrium. *Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau, Rick Dunlap, VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org/MEDIA, rick@hersheyharrisburg.org*

Lancaster County

Situated on a former estate, Conestoga House & Gardens in Lancaster is a beautifully sculptured summer garden with an emphasis on tropicals and container plantings, and features a whimsical Topiary Animal Hunt. It's open on selected days from mid-June to the end of September, with free self-guided tours. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, DiscoverLancaster.com, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com*

Lehigh Valley

Allentown has more parkland per capita than any other city of its size in the country. Take advantage of miles of trails throughout the city's vast park system. A stop at the Allentown Rose Garden is a must during the mid-summer when the roses are in bloom. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, DiscoverLehighValley.com, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com*

Pittsburgh

Attracting more than half a million guests a year, Pittsburgh's Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens stands as one of the largest and oldest conservatories in the world. Take in the spectacular seasonal flower exhibits, vibrant outdoor gardens, and extraordinary glass sculptures, all within one of the globe's leading sustainable structures. *VisitPITTSBURGH, Kristin Wenger, VisitPITTSBURGH.com, kristin.wenger@visitpittsburgh.com*

Pocono Mountains

Grey Towers was once the home of Gifford Pinchot, America's first Chief Forester. The nearly 100-acre estate is one of the Forest Service's most significant cultural resources. In 1963, John F. Kennedy dedicated the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies as a historic landmark. Its lands are filled with luscious gardens. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, PoconoMountains.com, kshannon@poconos.org*

Potter County - Tioga County

The Green in the heart of historic Wellsboro features beautiful walkways and seasonal plantings. It's the home to the famous Wynken, Blynken & Nod fountain celebrating the whimsical Dutch children's lullaby about three fishermen who sailed to the moon in a wooden shoe. *Visit Potter-Tioga, Morgan Christopher, VisitPotterTioga.com, morgan@visitpottertioga.com*

Virginia Alexandria

Located minutes from Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River, visitors to Alexandria can take in stunning gardens at Carlyle House, a Georgian Palladian manor house built in 1753, and River Farm, a historic 25-acre site that was once part of George Washington's original five farms. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, APR, VisitAlexandriaVA.com, ispellman@visitalexva.com*

Charlottesville and Albemarle County

Gardens burst back to life with vibrant colors in Charlottesville & Albemarle County each spring. Visitors can explore and stroll a variety of beautifully maintained gardens at historic sites like Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, James Monroe's Highland, James Madison's Montpelier, or even on the grounds of the prestigious University of Virginia. *Charlottesville & Albemarle County CVB, Bri Warner, VisitCharlottesville.org, warnerb@charlottesville.org*

Fairfax County

Along the Potomac River and throughout Fairfax County, a collection of gardens awaits showcasing Virginia's beauty and history. Highlights include River Farm, once owned by George Washington; Green Spring Gardens, a national historic site/outdoor classroom; and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, home to native plant collections and the Korean Bell Garden. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, FXVA.com, amorris@fxva.com*

Fredericksburg

A full-on horticulture spectacular can be found at the 18th and 19th century country manors and riverside homes in the Fredericksburg Region. The Georgian landscapes of Belmont, Kenmore, Mary Washington House, Ferry Farm, and Chatham will delight you with their symmetry and the colors will be popping. *City of Fredericksburg, Debbie Aylor, VisitFred.com, daylor@spotsylvania.va.us*

Harrisonburg

Enjoy a stroll through the Edith J. Carrier Arboretum. The 125-acre urban botanical preserve features a naturalized botanical garden and forestry with a diverse ecosystem of native plants of mid-Appalachians (wildflowers, azaleas, and rhododendrons); a collection of non-native trees, shrubs, and bulbs (magnolias, dogwoods, daffodils, etc.); and the Oak-Hickory Forest. *Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services, Brenda Black, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com, brenda.black@harrisonburgva.gov*

Prince William County

The Annual Festival of Spring at Burnside Farm in late March/early April offers visitors a unique peek into the life of a flower farmer. With over 20 acres of tulips to choose from, you can spend a spring day picnicking and picking your own flowers to take home with you. *Prince William County Office of Tourism, Nicole Warner, VisitPWC.com, nwarner@pwccgov.org*

Richmond

The Richmond region blooms in the spring. Head to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden for

beautiful gardens and the yearly springtime Butterflies Live exhibit. Italian and Japanese gardens can be found at Maymont, while the gardens at Agecroft Hall reflect the opulence of English gardens. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, VisitRichmondVA.com, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com*

Shenandoah Valley

For garden and flower lovers, the Shenandoah Valley truly has it all. Come explore arboretums, delight in historic gardens, gaze at hidden waterfalls, and relax near sun-dappled fields and forests. Colorful and delicate wildflowers abound in Shenandoah National Park, and along the Blue Ridge Parkway many scenic back roads. *Shenandoah Valley Travel Association, Kathy Moore, VisitShenandoah.org, svta@moorepublicrelations.com*

Virginia's Blue Ridge

Experience the bright blooms of spring naturally throughout Virginia's Blue Ridge along the Blue Ridge Parkway or beautifully grown in Virginia Western's Community Arboretum. Visitors of all ages can enjoy stunning plant gardens and collections, a plant maze, plant zoo, and Children's Garden in the magical two-acre educational Arboretum. *Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Taylor Spellman, VisitVBR.com, tspellman@visitvbr.com*

About Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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Jennifer Sigal
MATPRA Chair 2017-2018
midatlantictourism@gmail.com