



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Garden Club of America strongly supports an environmentally sustainable approach to improving the nation's transportation systems and infrastructure. They should support clean air and clean water, utilizing buffers to reduce runoff and water pollution, living shorelines to minimize storm damage, and native plants to improve resiliency and cost efficiency, as well as to prevent erosion and improve pollinator habitats. The GCA also supports billboard-free highways and roads to address visual pollution and enhance the scenic character of communities.

The Garden Club of America supports, on a case by case basis, federal, state, and local legislation and policies that address the following:

TRANSPORTATION RELATED AIR AND WATER QUALITY MEASURES

- Maintaining the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) review of all major transportation and infrastructure projects to ensure a healthy environment in our communities. NEPA was designed to “promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.”
- Supporting the Clean Air Act, especially in promoting increased fuel economy and reductions in auto and truck emissions.
- Supporting the expansion of energy efficient transportation.
- Addressing a major source of water degradation - runoff from roads, urban areas, and agriculture - by utilizing natural features to provide buffer areas and filter pollution, while providing habitat and scenic beauty.
- Using innovative surfaces and lighting designs and materials, including native plantings, to reduce heat island effects, sequester carbon, and capture stormwater runoff.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Continuing federal support to state and local governments for transportation projects and programs that reduce emissions and congestion, and meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- Promoting private investment in effective public transportation to further support the Clean Air Act.
- Encouraging alternatives to automotive transportation, including walkways, bike lanes, and trails.

ROADSIDE PLANTINGS AND BILLBOARD BLIGHT

- Encouraging the cooperation of federal, state, and local highway departments to promote biodiversity and improve air and water quality through roadside plantings, using native and pollinator-friendly plants, and eradicating invasive species.
- Encouraging additional designations for scenic byways while maintaining support and funding for the current program.
- Addressing the visual, safety, and environmental hazards of electronic billboards, including the digital light-emitting diode (LED) billboard.

The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence, and publications, and to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.