



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

The Garden Club of America has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic character of our communities and countryside since 1914 when the Committee on Beautifying Settlements and Highways was formed. “The restoration, improvement and protection of the environment through programs and action,” is included in the mission statement of The Garden Club of America.

We view transportation and billboard legislation as significant determinants of the quality of our air, water, plants, and scenery.

Therefore, The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy that addresses the following:

POLLUTION REDUCTION AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Supporting the Clean Air Act, including incentives for cleaner fuel and reductions in auto emissions.
- Assuring public involvement and sound transportation planning.
- Providing funding for the support and further development of public transportation.
- Continuing funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, which allows states and communities to improve air quality by reducing congestion and emissions.
- Converting abandoned railroad corridors and similar public spaces to pedestrian and bicycle trails where appropriate.

NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

- Encouraging the cooperation of federal, state, and local highway departments to promote biodiversity through roadside plantings, particularly by using native plants, eradicating invasive species, and incorporating pollinator-friendly plants.
- Valuing protection of historic, cultural and natural assets, and encourages acquisition of easements to protect historical sites.
- Promoting creation and maintenance of suitable scenic byways.
- Preserving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process involving federal highway projects.

BILLBOARD REDUCTION

- Emphasizing the protection of the natural landscape rather than billboard visibility.
- 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.