

Become an Urban Gardener in our Woodland Gardens.

Make a Lasting Difference for Generations yet to come.



{1.}

Here in Mt. Lebanon, we are privileged to live with 125 acres of Parklands. Our trees support the health of our families and our environment. They provide habitats for wildlife. They help reduce climate change. And they remove air pollutants, reduce ozone and make the air we breathe healthier for all.

Research shows that living in close proximity to urban green spaces and having access to them, improves physical and mental health, decreasing high blood pressure and stress. This, in turn, contributes to the well-being of urban communities.



{2.}

The Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy is an all-volunteer group that helps protect our parks by ridding them of invasives like bush honeysuckle, wild grapevines, and oriental bittersweet. We clear and mulch trails, are grateful for and oversee many helpful Scout projects like building foot-bridges and steps to ease and increase accessibility. We've provided bird blinds, planted and maintain a pollinator garden and, of course, the Conservancy plants trees to support our parks' health, diversity and growth.



{3.}

The invasive clearance work we do also helps sustain native plants along the forest floor. Especially engaging are our native Wildflower blooms, including the soft whites of the Mayapple or Umbrella Plant (*Podophyllum peltatum*), the translucent, pale pinkish petals of Virginia spring-beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), the white to pink flowers resembling upside-down pantaloons belonging to the fernlike Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and the delicate lavender tufted flowers of Beebalm / Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), to name just a few.

1. Cardinal flower 2. Jack in the Pulpit 3. Wild Bergamot
4. Claytonia Virginica 5. Mayapple

Next year, 2020, will mark the 35th annual School in the Park, a landmark undertaking of the Nature Conservancy. In this special woodland garden adventure, every third-grade child in the Mt. Lebanon School District is provided a half-day of environmental learning. Each and every child explores the forest, stream and field habitats and learns about native birds and invertebrates all within Bird Park.

Indeed, the child in each of us can lay claim to such adventures here in Mt. Lebanon.



{4.}

A Child in the Garden

*When to the garden of untroubled thought
I came of late, and saw the open door,
And wished again to enter, and explore
The sweet, wild ways with stainless bloom inwrought,
And bowers of innocence with beauty fraught,
It seemed some purer voice must speak before
I dared to tread that garden loved of yore,
That Eden lost unknown and found unsought.*

*Then just within the gate I saw a child, —
A stranger-child, yet to my heart most dear;
He held his hands to me, and softly smiled
With eyes that knew no shade of sin or fear:
“Come in,” he said, “and play awhile with me;”
“I am the little child you used to be.”*

— Henry Van Dyke



{5.}



Please join the Nature Conservancy now to help nurture Mt Lebanon's woodland gardens. Our parks are a treasured resource worthy of our protection. You'll be helping this green and thriving community provide benefit to generations yet to come.

Visit us at LeboNature.org