



City of Murphy  
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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Animal Shelter native plant garden seeking volunteers

MURPHY (October 20, 2014) Volunteers are being sought to assist in creating the native plant garden that will grace the entryway of the new Murphy Animal Shelter. The garden is one of only 13 awarded a state grant across Texas for this purpose, says Candy McQuiston, Manager of Customer Service.

“We’re developing and nurturing this native plant garden as a demonstration project,” she said. “One of our principal aims is to show residents how to successfully landscape their homes with native and adapted plants.”

The planting process, which includes minimal soil preparation, some minor digging and placing plants in specific clusters, will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. The Animal Shelter is located at 203 North Murphy Road, behind the Murphy Activity Center and Murphy Community Center. Entry into the area may be limited, requiring volunteers to park in the Wal-Mart lot and walk to the shelter.

“We anticipate concluding around 2 p.m.,” she added. “To help keep volunteer workers productive, we will have water, soft drinks, hot dogs and chips. Volunteers should dress appropriately with closed-toe working shoes or tennis shoes and gloves.”

A grant from the Native Garden Grants Program from Keep America Beautiful allowed the City to partner with Lowe’s in providing support and materials to create and maintain the native plant demonstration garden. The grant included a \$600 gift card to Lowe’s and \$500 in maintenance assistance, a variety of gardening materials and additional support from Keep Texas Beautiful.

“Part of the demonstration is the planning, of course, but also that plants native to the area or successfully adapted to the area can thrive with little water and maintenance,” she said. “The plants will all be listed in the Ladybird Johnson native plant database.”

In addition to the professional Parks personnel on the City staff, gardening professionals from the Murphy Lowe’s store, the Murphy Middle School Environmental Club and some Boy Scouts will be on hand to assist in the installation of the garden.

“But, really, we want community volunteers to be part of the process and take ownership of the garden,” she said. A rain-collection barrel is also planned for the site, further demonstrating how residents can enhance their gardens.

To enrich the learning experience of visitors once the garden is in place, a marker will be placed at each plant base with a QR code, allowing smart phones and mobile devices to access the plant’s characteristics, watering requirements and soil preferences online.

To learn how individuals and organizations can become part of this program, representatives may contact McQuiston at [cmquiston@murphytx.org](mailto:cmquiston@murphytx.org), call the Customer Service line (972) 468-4100 or visit [www.murphytx.org](http://www.murphytx.org).

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**ABOUT MURPHY** -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.