



Vermont Garden Network

Member of the Board of Directors (at-large)

Organization summary

Established in 2001, the Vermont Garden Network's mission is to cultivate well-being by helping people access resources to grow food, build confidence and connect with each other. We envision a vibrant local food system where Vermonters experience the benefits of gardening at home, at school and in community.

Position summary

Members of the Vermont Garden Network's Board of Directors serve in a volunteer capacity and are responsible for overseeing the organization's governance, strategy, and financial wellbeing. Board members understand that a small, action-oriented nonprofit requires a high-functioning board of diverse, expert, committed, connected, values-aligned directors who are enthusiastic about advancing its mission within the community.

Duties & responsibilities

Leadership & governance:

- Attend and participate actively in board meetings. The full Board typically meets virtually on a quarterly basis for 1 - 2 hour meetings, with agendas and supporting documentation sent in advance.
- Be current and fluent in the organization's mission, values, strategic vision, scope of impact, programs, and policies.
- Review and understand the organization's financials and supporting materials in advance of board meetings.
- Participate fully in at least one board committee and additionally in temporary working groups as needed.
- Demonstrate integrity and respect for all board members and staff, and embody diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in all board activities, both in board meetings and in the communities the organization serves.
- Uphold legal responsibilities and lawful practices of nonprofit governance.
- Disclose potential or anticipated conflicts of interest, and voice actual conflicts of interest as they arise.
- Maintain confidentiality and practice data security in all organizational activities.
- Provide feedback to the Board President to inform formal evaluations of the Executive Director(s) and of the organization in achieving its mission.



Fundraising & advocacy:

- Serves as an active advocate for and representative of the organization within the community.
- Identify and procure resources and partnerships needed to achieve the organization's strategic vision.
- Leverage connections, networks, and other resources needed to grow collective action in service to the organization's mission.
- Contribute directly to the organization's financial health by way of a meaningful personal donation and/or taking a hands-on role in donor stewardship and fundraising appeals.
- Board members are encouraged to volunteer and participate in activities that grow understanding of the communities the organization serves, as well as to attend Vermont Garden Network-hosted events.

Board terms

- Board members serve for a term of three years with the opportunity to be re-elected for two additional terms each of three years. Board terms may be served non-consecutively.
- Board members are encouraged to pursue leadership roles, including serving on the Executive Committee and chairing subcommittees.

Qualifications

- Demonstrated alignment with the values and purpose of the organization and enthusiasm for advancing its mission.
- Deep expertise in a professional area that directly enhances the effectiveness of the board and of the organization. This includes, but is not limited to: climate science and mitigation expertise; community development; connections within the food system; connections with farms, nurseries, and growers; education / academic research; financial expertise; legal expertise; and prior board experience.
- Demonstrated critical thinking and strategic planning abilities.
- High degree of personal accountability and follow-through on commitments.
- Availability to meet in-person semi-annually, as well as virtually (typically over Zoom).
- Vermont residents will be prioritized for board service. If a current board member moves out of state during tenure, the board may review status and determine if the remaining term may be served.

To express your interest in joining our Board of Directors, please email board@vtgardens.org