



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

POSITION PAPER — 2003

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.

GCA SUPPORTS BILLBOARD CONTROL, SCENIC QUALITY, SCENIC BYWAYS AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

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 Garden Club of America continues to oppose the existing Highway Beautification Act of 1965, because it has proved to be ineffective in the control of billboards.

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

- The elimination of billboards.
- Prohibition of the destruction of trees on public lands to improve visibility of billboards.
- Landscaping of highways to protect roadside biodiversity, particularly by the use of native plants.
- Acquisition of scenic easements to protect scenic and historic sites.
- Rehabilitation of canals, historic stations and bridges.
- Conversion of railroad corridors to pedestrian and bicycle trails.
- Creation of scenic byways in every state.

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.