

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2377

To authorize the White House Task Force on Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday to establish the National Garden of American Heroes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2025

Mr. MAST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the White House Task Force on Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday to establish the National Garden of American Heroes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Garden for
5 America’s 250th Anniversary Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL GARDEN OF AMERICAN HEROES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Task Force shall—

8 (1) establish the Garden in accordance with this

9 Act; and

1 (2) in establishing the Garden, be responsible
2 for any planning, contracting, implementation of
3 plans, designing, building, permitting, compliance,
4 and land acquisition or environmental reviews re-
5 lated to such establishment.

6 (b) TIMELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF GARDEN.—

7 (1) DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT.—To the
8 maximum extent practicable and subject to para-
9 graph (2), the Task Force shall commence construc-
10 tion of the Garden by not later than July 4, 2026.

11 (2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION PENDING
12 APPROVAL.—The Task Force may only commence
13 construction of the Garden after the Secretary of the
14 Interior approves the location of the Garden.

15 (c) LOCATION OF GARDEN.—

16 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF ESTABLISHMENT IN
17 RESERVE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title
18 40, United States Code, the Task Force may estab-
19 lish the Garden in the Reserve.

20 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF LAND ACQUISITION.—If
21 the Garden is not established on Federal land, the
22 Secretary of the Interior may acquire through pur-
23 chase, donation, or exchange from a State, local gov-
24 ernment, Tribal Government, or private landowner
25 land on which to establish the Garden.

1 (d) INDIVIDUALS HONORED.—Notwithstanding sec-
2 tion 8903(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Garden
3 may commemorate any individual or group of individuals.

4 (e) PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Task Force
5 shall solicit and accept private contributions for the Gar-
6 den.

7 (f) NATIONAL GARDEN FUND.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established
9 in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the “Na-
10 tional Garden Fund”, for the expenses of estab-
11 lishing and maintaining the Garden.

12 (2) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS; OBLIGATIONS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The National Garden
14 Fund shall consist of—

15 (i) amounts deposited, and interest
16 and proceeds credited, under subparagraph
17 (B); and

18 (ii) obligations obtained under sub-
19 paragraph (C).

20 (B) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—The Chair
21 of the Task Force shall deposit in the National
22 Garden Fund the amounts accepted as con-
23 tributions under subsection (e). The Secretary
24 of the Treasury shall credit to the National
25 Garden Fund the interest on, and the proceeds

1 from sale or redemption of, obligations held in
2 the National Garden Fund.

3 (C) OBLIGATIONS.—The Secretary of the
4 Treasury shall invest any portion of the Na-
5 tional Garden Fund that, as determined by the
6 Chair of the Task Force, is not required to
7 meet current expenses. Each investment shall
8 be made in an interest-bearing obligation of the
9 United States or an obligation guaranteed as to
10 principal and interest by the United States
11 that, as determined by the Chair of the Task
12 Force, has a maturity suitable for the National
13 Garden Fund.

14 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Such amounts
15 as are necessary shall be made available from the
16 National Garden Fund to—

17 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, for the
18 Secretary to provide administrative support for
19 the establishment of the Garden;

20 (B) the Task Force, for the Task Force to
21 establish the Garden; and

22 (C) the Director of the National Park
23 Service, beginning on the date on which the
24 Garden opens to the public, for the Director to
25 maintain the Garden.

1 (g) VISITATION FEE.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may charge a
3 visitation fee for the Garden if the Director deter-
4 mines that the funds of the National Garden Fund
5 are insufficient to maintain the Garden.

6 (2) USE OF FEE.—Any fees collected under
7 paragraph (1) may only be used for the maintenance
8 of the Garden.

9 (h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

10 (1) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF GAR-
11 DEN.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
13 after the date of enactment of this section, and
14 every 60 days thereafter until the date that is
15 1 day before the date on which the Garden
16 opens to the public, the Task Force shall sub-
17 mit to the appropriate congressional committees
18 a report on the establishment of the Garden,
19 which shall include information regarding—

20 (i) prior to the commencement of con-
21 struction of the Garden, any proposed loca-
22 tion for the Garden, or a final decision
23 about such location;

1 (ii) any plan for the design of the
2 Garden, and any implementation or
3 planned implementation of such plan;

4 (iii) an up-to-date timeline for estab-
5 lishment of the Garden, including—

6 (I) prior to the commencement of
7 construction of the Garden, any rec-
8 ommendations or initiatives imple-
9 mented to enable such commencement
10 by not later than July 4, 2026; and

11 (II) after the commencement of
12 construction of the Garden, a date on
13 which the Garden plans to open to the
14 public, recommendations, and any ini-
15 tiatives related to such date on which
16 the Garden plans to open to the pub-
17 lic; and

18 (iv) a detailed and up-to-date budget
19 for establishing the Garden, including in-
20 formation on any funds in the National
21 Garden Fund, and how such funds are
22 used.

23 (B) CONTINGENCY.—If the Task Force de-
24 termines that commencement of construction of
25 the Garden by July 4, 2026, is not feasible,

1 then the Task Force shall, not later than July
2 4, 2026, submit to Congress a revised timeline
3 for establishment of the Garden, including a
4 date on which the Garden plans to open to the
5 public.

6 (2) REPORT ON MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN.—

7 Not later than 60 days after the date on which the
8 Garden opens to the public, and every 60 days there-
9 after, the Director shall submit to the appropriate
10 congressional committees a report on the mainte-
11 nance of the Garden, which shall include information
12 regarding—

13 (A) the staffing and operations of the Gar-

14 den;

15 (B) the conservation and resource manage-

16 ment of the Garden;

17 (C) visitations to the Garden;

18 (D) the safety of the public at the Garden;

19 (E) any security threats or challenges to

20 the Garden;

21 (F) any funds in the National Garden

22 Fund, and how such funds are used; and

23 (G) any visitation fees collected under sub-

24 paragraph (g), and how such fees are used.

25 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means the Committee on Natural Re-
4 sources of the House of Representatives and the
5 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
6 Senate.

7 (2) GARDEN.—The term “Garden” means the
8 statuary park, to be known as the National Garden
9 of American Heroes, described in Executive Order
10 14189 (90 Fed. Reg. 8849; relating to celebrating
11 America’s 250th birthday) and prior Executive Or-
12 ders 13934 (85 Fed. Reg. 41165; relating to build-
13 ing and rebuilding monuments to American heroes)
14 and 13978 (86 Fed. Reg. 6809; relating to building
15 the Garden).

16 (3) RESERVE.—The term “Reserve” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 8902 of title 40,
18 United States Code.

19 (4) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
20 ing given such term in section 6501 of title 31,
21 United States Code.

22 (5) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”
23 means the White House Task Force on Celebrating
24 America’s 250th Birthday established under Execu-
25 tive Order 14189 (90 Fed. Reg. 8849; relating to

1 celebrating America’s 250th birthday) and prior Ex-
2 ecutive Orders 13934 (85 Fed. Reg. 41165; relating
3 to building and rebuilding monuments to American
4 heroes) and 13978 (86 Fed. Reg. 6809; relating to
5 building the Garden) to establish the Garden.

6 (6) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal
7 Government” has the meaning given such term in
8 section 421 of the Congressional Budget and Im-
9 poundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 658).

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