

# GOOD

have a neat summer

## TIGHTENING THE BELTWAY

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**THE VOLUNTEERS** America has 1.5 million new veterans. Meet 11 of them inside.



## ENGLAND

## Horticulture Jamming

**Londoners can relax:** the newest subversives in their city are armed only with green thumbs. Cadres of illicit horticulturists, equipped with hoes and shovels, have been venturing into the night to plant **guerrilla gardens**—carefully landscaped areas in the small open spaces that cities build to beautify the landscape but then so often leave fallow. The movement, cultivated online by 30-year-old Richard Reynolds, an adman by day who moonlights as a renegade gardener, has spread throughout the United Kingdom, and guerrilla gardens have appeared as far away as Vancouver, Canada. Missions require reconnaissance, strategy, and stealthy gardening, and each successful planting strikes a blow for a more refined metropolitan aesthetic. —PATRICK JAMES



## BELOW

Outdoor spaces in Los Angeles are being converted to "living rooms."

## LOS ANGELES

## Parlor Park

**Rather than fence off** the trash-strewn lot beside its building—a stomping ground for drug-users and prostitutes—one downtown Los Angeles community center added, instead, a few benches and flowers. Soon, neighbors began to hang out there, and the less desirable denizens vanished.

By beautifying the lot, the center transformed its use, and herein lies the vision of the **Community Living Room project**, run by the Los Angeles-based nonprofit group Verde Coalition: turn grim scraps of public land—like bus stops, traffic medians, or dangerous street corners—into welcoming public spaces. In Los Angeles, where many low-income communities

enjoy almost no park space, a new "living room" cheaply and quickly creates a mini-sanctuary from the fast-paced and sometimes ugly reality of the city. Twelve community "living rooms" have been constructed so far, and the mayor's office may soon help fund 1,000 more across the city, making Los Angeles more habitable—two benches at a time. —JENNY PRICE



BEFORE



AFTER

PHOTOS Courtesy of Verde Coalition

LEARN MORE [guerrillagardening.org](http://guerrillagardening.org)

PHOTO Jonathan Warren



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ABOVE  
Marauding  
green thumbs  
take action in  
the London  
streets.

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Look