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**Guns to Gardens: Safe Disposal and Transformation of Unwanted Firearms**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 18 10AM-1PM AT ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH**

As part of an effort to reduce local gun violence, a group of Dallas-area faith-based organizations and community safety advocates are holding a Guns to Garden event, in which unwanted firearms will be dismantled, and their remains shaped into garden tools and jewelry.

The April 18 event, hosted by the Royal Lane Baptist Church, will allow anyone in the community to anonymously bring guns they no longer use or want.

“Perhaps they have young children in their homes or no longer hunt. Others may have family members suffering illness or depression, whom they fear might attempt to end their own lives,” said Father Casey Shobe, Rector at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration where the first Guns to Gardens event in Dallas was held last fall. “It’s a profound experience to see Biblical prophecy come to fruition,” says Father Casey as he referenced the quote from the book of Isaiah about nations beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks.

“Participants are not asked their names or the reason they’ve brought their firearms although we try to create a safe space for those who want to share,” said Mary Cary Peterson, who volunteered at the first Guns to Gardens event in Dallas last fall. The process involves participants driving into the parking lot with their unloaded firearms secured in the trunk or back of their vehicle. A trained volunteer will safely remove the firearms and take them through the dismantling process. Once the firearms have been fully processed at the chop saw, the participants have the option to receive gift cards in appreciation for their action toward gun violence prevention.

There is no transfer of firearm ownership, as once the gun is dismantled according to federal guidelines, it is no longer legally a gun.

Artisan blacksmiths will be on site, demonstrating how these remains can be transformed into garden tools and jewelry, and displaying their creations.



**Details:**

Guns to Gardens Event

Saturday April 18 10am-1pm

Royal Lane Baptist Church 6707 Royal Ln, Dallas, TX 75230

Place unwanted guns in a vehicle trunk or rear of vehicle. Gun owners are anonymous.

Guns must be unloaded. No ammunition is accepted.

Thank you gift cards will be provided until they run out.

\$150 for a single shot (shotgun or hunting rifle) or pistol

\$100 for a revolver or semi-automatic firearm

**About Guns to Gardens**

Guns to Gardens is a new movement in the United States to provide Americans with a practical way to responsibly dispose of unwanted guns. Sometimes these are inherited guns. Sometimes they are guns that a family feels are unsafe to have in a home, for instance, with children or teens, with senior citizens or with anyone who suffers from a serious illness. The project is modeled on the non-profit organization RAWtools, which for over twelve years has created a national network of blacksmiths who forge dismantled gun parts into garden tools and art projects. See [www.RAWtools.org](http://www.RAWtools.org) or [www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence)