

# Pollinator Habitat Community Challenge



Local residents, businesses, schools and other community members are invited to participate in the *Pollinator Habitat Community Challenge* by replacing a portion of your lawn or hardscape with native plants. Any size counts, from one square foot to 500 square feet, it all adds up and will make a difference for local wildlife and pollinators. The goal is to provide one acre (43,560 square feet) of new native plantings as an alternative to monoculture grass or hard surfaces. Plantings can take the form of a

wildflower meadow, small or large garden, raised bed, deck planter or window box.

## *Why Native Plants?*

Pollinators need nectar and pollen from native plants for energy and nutrition, they need specific plant species for their larvae to feed on, they need chemical-free environments to thrive in and they need stop-over places for resting.

Due to loss of habitat and use of herbicides, pollinator populations have been declining over the years. By simply including local native plants in our yards and community, we not only help the pollinators, we are helping ourselves.

## *Who are the Pollinators?*

Butterflies, bees, beetles, bats and birds that transfer pollen among flowers which starts the plants' reproduction process creating berries and seeds that we and wildlife depend on for food.

## *What are the benefits to you?*

- You will have more spare time due to less maintenance
- You will be saving money on gas for your lawnmower
- You will not need to fertilize native plants
- You will not need to water native plants once they are established
- You will have a more productive vegetable garden
- You will be adding beautiful flowers to your landscape
- You will enjoy watching the pollinators in action!

## *What are the benefits to the environment?*

- More food, shelter, resting spots and host plants for native butterflies and bees
- Less carbon emissions from gas lawnmowers
- Less fertilizer contaminating waterbodies
- Increases biodiversity that supports the "food web"
- Promotes healthier soil due to deeper roots of native plants vs. grass