



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

To: Daniel Fox, Township Manager
From: Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Re: Proposal for EAC Demonstration Pollinator Garden
Date: November 6, 2024

The EAC is proposing a demonstration pollinator garden approximately 8' by 16' in North Branch Park, located between the lower Pavilion and the gravel parking lot (see red rectangle on attached map – not to scale). EAC members and community volunteers will prepare, plant, and tend the bed, including weeding and watering. We ask only that Public Works occasionally fill a rain barrel positioned by the bed and provide undyed mulch or leaf mulch. Plants will be donated. Ideally, educational signage will inform residents about the nature and purpose of the garden. The planting will be overseen by the EAC, Master Gardeners, and Master Watershed Stewards.

Purpose:

Our goal is twofold: 1) to educate New Britain Township residents, including children, about native plants and their importance to pollinating insects and stormwater control; and 2) to inspire residents to experiment with planting some of these native species on their own properties. As a bonus, the garden will beautify the area!

Location Specifics:

The garden location is in line with the adjacent stormwater swale, just behind the underground Stormwater pipe that feeds into the swale. Approximately six feet of open space between the garden and the swale will allow passage for mowers. We will confer with Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department about their desires and needs for the placement and shape of the garden. This location is easily visible from the nearby pavilion and the parking lot without being an obstruction to residents walking from one to the other as they head to ball games or the playground. As such, it is an ideal location.

Timeline:

- Late fall/early winter: Place heavy cardboard over entire bed and cover with 3-4" of undyed wood mulch (2 yards) or 6-8" of leaf mulch (5 yards). This method smothers underlying turf and weeds, softens the soil and helps restore its microbial health. Line the perimeter with 2-3' logs. These will be placed just inside the mulch line so as not to obstruct mowers.
- April: begin to advertise the planting, possibly at the Easter bunny event, on the Township website and facebook page, and at various tabling opportunities. We will also contact leaders of baseball teams so they can inform their team's families if they wish. The public is invited to participate.
- May: Collect the promised plant donations. Plant garden in late May. Install the donated rain barrel nearby. Volunteers will paint the rain barrel. Install signage.
- Summer: Volunteers will water as needed throughout the season and beyond.



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Materials:

- Plants (see species list below)
- Cardboard – donated by local businesses
- Mulch – we ask that the Township procure the mulch from a no-cost source, perhaps Doyelstown Township. We would prefer leaf mulch but need a source.
- Logs – donated by residents
- Rain Barrel – donated by a local business
 - o Rain Barrel fittings: \$___
- Signage – \$___ We are seeking a source of funding for an educational sign.

Potential Species List

[We cannot plant all these species due to space limitations and availability of contributions]

Green: Spring, Early summer

Blue: Mid-summer

Orange: Late summer, fall

Herbaceous perennials:

Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum</i>	Kathleen: 1
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea</i>	Mary Beth: 1
Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon</i>	Kathleen: 2
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	
Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Kathleen: 2; Amanda: 2
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Kathleen: 2 or 3
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis</i>	
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Mary Beth: 1 clump
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Ken: 2 or 3
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias pulchra</i>	(already donated by Bucks Master Watershed Stewards)
New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Ken: 2 or 3
Joe Pye weed	<i>Eutrochium</i>	Mary Beth: 1 clump; Kathleen: 1 clump
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	
Giant Hyssop	<i>Agastache</i>	
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Kathleen: 6
Blue Mist Flower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	Kathleen: 2; Amanda: 2
Cup Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Kathleen: 2; Ken: 2; MaryBeth: 2
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Chet?

Shrubs:

Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Lucy can get?
Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Already donated by MWS
St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Amanda: 1