



*Get inspired and be
a force for nature!*

2023 Annual Report

Deep Roots KC is increasing native plant landscapes throughout our region.

Why do people choose native plants?

Deep Roots asked, and you answered!

BY THE NUMBERS:

↑ **8,815** WEBINAR ATTENDEES

↑ **5,382** POLLINATOR SUBSCRIBERS

↑ **143,000**
NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED

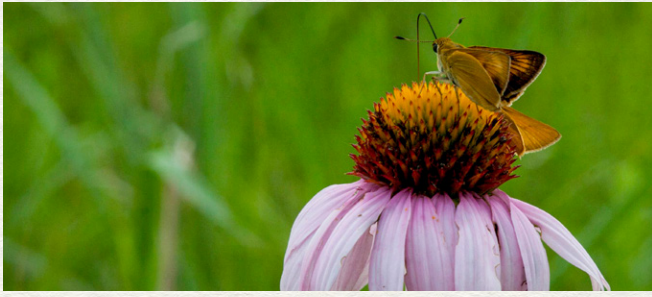


of respondents said to attract wildlife, like birds and butterflies (your #1 response!)

ADDITIONAL DEEP ROOTS PROGRAMS: Callery Pear Buy Back Campaign • Demonstration Garden at the Discovery Center • Land Management at the Shawnee Mission Environmental Science Lab • Land Manager Field Trips and Trainings • Lunch & Learn Webinars • Native Plants at Noon Webinars • Plant Sales

Photo: Cydney Ross





NATURE ADVISORS



A nature inspiration and consultation service

Nature Advisors volunteer consultants span the metro, meet with residents, tour their properties, and then offer detailed guidance in person and in a written report.

In 2023, 20% of Nature Advisor participants planted native plants **for the first time**. The rest added more native plants to their existing gardens. Empowered with expert advice, these residents made plans, purchased plants, and got going!

“

This visit helped me start my journey into native plants.

”



Photos: Courtney Masterson, Pat Whalen



PLAN IT NATIVE LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

264

PASSIONATE ATTENDEES

18

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10

BUSY EXHIBITORS

3

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

“I expected great tips and advice for my garden, but what I got was much more useful: **I got hope**. Such amazing sessions full of creative inspiration for so many facets of life... both in and out of the garden.”

JOIN US IN 2025!





The Long Season

This selection gives you blooms and textural interest May through November.

A short and sunny plant, Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) is visited by a wide variety of pollinators. A perennial favorite among gardeners, Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) blooms June through August. Its seeds attract birds like goldfinches. The October blooms of Aromatic Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*) are one of the last sources for pollen and nectar before winter sets in. Knitting it all together, Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) is a compact grass with big prairie personality—and even some small but showy late summer blooms.

- (1) Lanceleaf Coreopsis (2) Purple Coneflower
(3) Aromatic Aster (4) Sideoats Grama

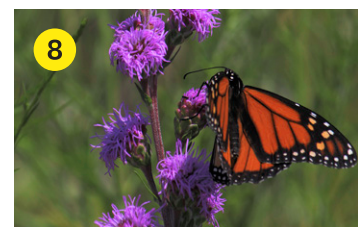
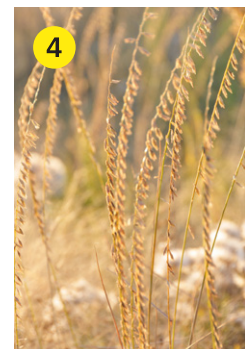


Bee in a Candy Store

These four plants are favorites among pollinators.

Pussytoes (*Antennaria parlinii*) are a reliable ground cover with sweet fuzzy flowers. Bee Balm (*Monarda bradburiana*) attracts hummingbirds, pollinating insects, and more. Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) is a host plant, of course, for monarch caterpillars and also attracts other pollinators. Speaking of monarchs, monarch butterflies will cover the Eastern Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa*) in the fall as they migrate south for the winter.

- (5) Pussytoes (6) Bee Balm
(7) Whorled Milkweed (8) Eastern Blazing Star



Invite birds and butterflies throughout the growing season with our Sweet Sixteen Most Likely to Succeed Native Plants!



These plants are generally easy to find at native plant nurseries and sales;



Tolerate a wider range of soil types, sun, and moisture;



Have broad wildlife and pollinator appeal;



Boast lengthy bloom time and seasonal interest.



Photo: Nature by Travis Bonovsky



For garden designs featuring the Sweet Sixteen Most Likely to Succeed Native Plants, visit our website!



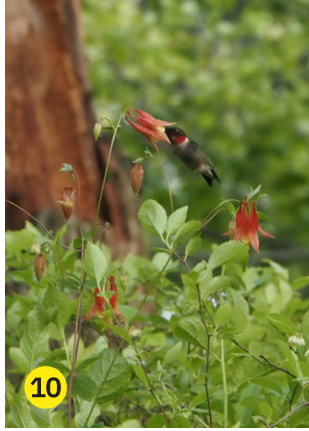
Photo: David Cree

Don't forget to include a keystone tree species! Shown above, the Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a host plant for hundreds of species of butterflies and moths. Spring pollinators party on its multitude of sweet-smelling blooms. The small red or black fruits are a favorite food of more than 40 species of birds and many mammals.

Special thanks to Sarah Beier, Oak & iO and The Arvin L. Gottlieb Foundation. Sweet Sixteen photo credits: The Plantography Project; Denver Botanic Garden; USFWS; Steven Severinghaus; Joshua Mayer; Dan Mullen; Joshua Mayer; Earl J. McGhehee; J. Maughn; Kelly Wood; Fritz Flohr Reynolds; John Brandauer, all CC BY 2.0. Stephanie Brundage; Norman G Flaigg; Sally & Andy Wysowski, courtesy Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. Additional credits: Sarah Beier, iStock, Stefan Bloodworth, Tom Schroeder, Missouri Botanical Garden.



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Shady Soft Landings

This grouping creates a safe haven for caterpillars and insects around the base of your trees.

Golden Groundsel (*Packera obovata*) is an evergreen groundcover with great spring color. A long-blooming hummingbird favorite is Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) with red and yellow April flowers. Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*) is also known as our native Coral Bells. Petite and pretty, Dittany (*Cunila origanoides*) blooms in September and bursts with frost flowers in the early winter!

(9) Golden Groundsel (10) Columbine
(11) Alumroot (12) Dittany



11



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14



Welcome, Summer!

Bright and bold blooms and pollinator action.

Bumblebees love the tubular flowers of the Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*). The Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*) is a host plant for the Gray Hairstreak and Painted Lady butterflies. The Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a host plant for 10 caterpillar species and 32 pollen specialist bees. With its fountain-like form and fine leaf texture, Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a beauty on its own, or a great base layer for taller plants.

(13) Foxglove Beardtongue
(14) Purple Poppy Mallow (15) Black-eyed Susan
(16) Prairie Dropseed



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REGISTER NOW!

Habitat Garden Tours

Presented by the Gattermier Family Foundation

Visit three habitat gardens every second Saturday, from April to October! That's 21 gardens, over 7 months—a panoramic sweep of the native flora that support our birds, bees, and butterflies. Registration is already open.



*Join us and
get inspired!*

Photos: Christopher Leitch, Jill DeWitt

