

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: City of Easton-Urban Forestry. <https://www.easton-pa.com/> City Forester-Robert Christopher 610-250-6734

Native Plant/Pollinator Landscape (Awarded 2018)

SUMMARY

The main purpose of this project is a multilateral one, the creation of an outdoor educational classroom that provides a visual tool for elementary age children, and a mini eco-system for wildlife and insect life providing them with a pollinator rich location/stop over for bees and butterflies and additional habitat for the life processes of these species. It will also provide local bird and small mammal forage and habitat through the winter months.



CHALLENGE

In creating a Pollinator/Butterfly and Wildlife refuge, this project provided an aspect of conservation to insect species that is threatened in our area and it will engage the public, schools and youth attracting them to an Outdoor living classroom, at a multi-level showing nature in its different stages of development. This natural landscape will provide; education/recreation, wildlife habitat and attraction of crucial species, community engagement, and inspiration for future career development in youth. This much needed native habitat aligns directly with Pennsylvania state conservation goals, and also with its vision for this year, as it strengthens green infrastructure, educates the Public and adds natural resources to Hugh Moore Park providing yet an additional attraction upon visiting this Riparian throughway. With the continued growth of these 3 areas of Native landscapes and the public's awareness, residents of the surrounding areas will have an understanding that there are other options for residential landscaping as compared to the typical lawn and foundation plantings of the same overused traditional plant material most people conform to. This is a vital option, not only aesthetically pleasing to the eye, but ecologically necessary to the survival of plant Pollinators!

FUNDING

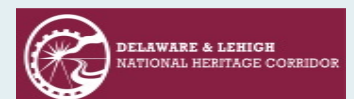
Grant Award:
\$3500.00

Match:
\$6622.46

Total Project Cost:
\$10,122.48

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Contributor's to the successful completion of this Project. City of Easton's City Forester-Robert Christopher, Hugh Moore Park Staff, Volunteers Lynn Fraser & Jim Bloom, Eagle Scout Ryan Weiss- Boy Scouts of America Troop 44, Bushkill, Pa, Daphne Mayer, Delaware & Lehigh National Canal Museum, Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery, Orefield, Pa



SOLUTION

The addition of these three Pollinator landscapes, containing native plants, was necessary due to the aggressive nature of many non native invasive plants that have already taken over our local riparian landscapes. With Japanese Knotweed alone crowding out so many native plant habitats along our waterways, the addition of Native plants to help overcome this imbalance will only help in combatting these invasive species. As the natives grow and multiply and pollinator insects are continually attracted to this location, they will make this a part of their annual migration path or “Way Station”, as they travel to their Winter resting locations. These native perennials will start to seed within the first year and distribute in many ways throughout Hugh Moore Park and hopefully even further by wind. Through local word of mouth, Urban Forestry Facebook posts and help with those other organizations that partnered on this project, the importance of creating additional native pollinator landscapes with thrive.

RESULTS

Since the landscape beds have been completed in July 2018 and with the exceptional amounts of rainfall we have incurred this season, you would think the plants have been growing for at least two full seasons! With so many of the species doing well, having planted their roots in deeply, matured in to a decent size and many are flowering, it only proves to show how in such a short period of time the mission we set out to accomplish only took a few months! Many species of pollinators I have witnessed in the 3 locations consist of honey bees, bumble bees, skippers, hummingbird moths, moths and most exciting to see, were they Monarch Butterfly caterpillars feeding on the Milkweed. On September 8th an educational workshop was held in partnership with the D&L Canal Museum along with Susan Tantsits, a native plant/pollinator expert, from Edge of the Woods Native plant Nursery. These developments have been highlighted and posted on the City of Easton’s Urban Forestry Facebook page and has been driving traffic to the Canal Museum to learn more about these special plants, motivating onlookers to create their own Pollinator garden. The initial Facebook posts regarding this project have generated 1300 people reached, 31 engagements and 142 clicks, inquiring about additional information. As each season passes, so will the interest continue to grow, along with the elements needed to help our native Pollinator insect species reproduce, thrive and draw more attraction to this Riparian buffer.

Contact



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Museum Flag Bed Before



Museum Flag Bed After



Museum Bed Before



Museum Bed After