

Guide to creating a roadside pollinator garden

You can create valuable habitat for wildlife in your own public planting strip, curb extension, or yard!

Tips for a Healthy Garden

- Choose native plants whenever possible.
- Avoid plants that have been treated with pesticides or other chemicals.
- Select plants that differ in bloom time, color, height, and shape.
- Choose plants that thrive in the sun and soil conditions of your garden site.
- Use a wire cage or netting to protect young plants from critters.
- Water plants immediately after planting and frequently while they are getting established.
- Water plants close to the soil (not on the leaves) to make sure water reaches the roots and also to avoid unnecessary evaporation.
- Start with a small area and grow the garden over the years as you learn more.

Why Grow Native Plants?

Native plants provide vital food and shelter for birds, butterflies, bees and other insects that help maintain biodiversity in our local environment. Once established, native plants provide beautiful, healthy green spaces that require only minimal maintenance and little water, helping to combat climate change.

Cardboard-compost method for starting a new garden

1. Select an area
 - a. Measure it and call the Dept. of Public Works to get permission to dig. 617-972-6420
2. Mow grass low
 - a. Mow and remove large weeds.
3. Cover soil with cardboard and water
 - a. Remove all tape and labels from the cardboard.
 - b. Wet the ground and lay out cardboard, overlapping the edges.
 - c. Wet the cardboard thoroughly.
4. Add compost
 - a. Cover the cardboard with 3-4" of compost. This step should be done at least 2 months before planting.

Wait 2+ months

5. Select your plants
 - a. 5. Select your plants
 - b. Consider hours of direct sunlight.
 - c. Choose plants less than 2.5 feet tall if planting next to the road.
 - d. Plant densely to prevent unwanted weeds and provide shelter for wildlife.
6. Dig holes and water
 - a. Dig through the compost and cardboard into the soil. Pour water in the holes. Let it soak in.
7. Plant

- a. Add a handful of compost to the bottom of each hole.
 - b. For each plant, loosen the root ball and set it into a hole. Fill with soil.
8. Water
- a. Water well around the base of the plant so water reaches the roots, not just the leaves.
9. Enjoy!
- a. Enjoy the plants and the pollinators visiting your garden!

Drought- and Salt-Tolerant Native Plants For Your Roadside Pollinator Garden

- Full sun
 - Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
 - Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
 - Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
 - Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
 - Spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*)
 - Downy goldenrod (*Solidago puberula*)
 - Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Part sun, Part shade
 - Red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
 - Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
 - Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
 - Northern dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
 - Calico aster (*Symphotrichum lateriflorum*)
 - Wreath Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)
 - Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

Watertown Community Gardens' mission is

to empower people to grow their own food, promote environmental stewardship, and cultivate community connections through gardening in Watertown.

Watertown Pollinator Pathways

is a committee of WCG which offers educational programming, maintains public pollinator gardens, and manages invasive plants to restore wildlife habitat.

Important notes

Roadside planting areas are owned by the City and mature plants must stand no taller than 2.5 feet high.

For more information on the City's planting strip rules, please refer to the DPW's Planting Strip Guide at: watertown-ma.gov/876/Forestry

If you want a tree planted in front of your residence, you can request one from the City! watertown-ma.gov/treereq