

Pollinator Garden Proposal

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Proposed Location: Forty-Fort Borough

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Overview

This proposal outlines the creation of a native pollinator garden within Forty-Fort Borough to support declining pollinator populations, enhance public green space, and provide educational opportunities for residents. The garden will utilize regionally appropriate native plants to create a sustainable habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, and other beneficial insects.

Pollinator Decline and Community Responsibility

Pollinator populations, including bees and monarch butterflies, have been steadily declining due to habitat loss, climate change, and the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides. These chemicals can harm pollinators directly and reduce the availability of the native plants they rely on for food and reproduction.

As a community, we can make a meaningful difference by reducing or eliminating chemical use in our landscapes, planting native species, and creating safe, pesticide-free habitats. Establishing this pollinator garden will not only provide immediate ecological benefits but also serve as an educational example for residents. Informational signage and visibility will help encourage more mindful practices, empowering individuals to make small changes in their own yards that collectively have a large positive impact.

Benefits to the Community

- Supports pollinators essential to food production
- Enhances biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Provides a low-maintenance, drought-tolerant landscape
- Creates educational opportunities for residents and local schools
- Improves the visual appeal of public spaces
- Encourages community involvement and environmental stewardship

Native Plant Selection

Examples include:

- Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*, *Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago* species)
- Asters (*Symphyotrichum* species)

Monarch Waystation Component

- Minimum of 10–20 milkweed plants
- Diverse nectar plants for adult butterflies
- At least 6 hours of sunlight daily

- Shelter from strong winds
- Minimum recommended space of 100 square feet
- No use of pesticides or herbicides

Additional Pollinator Support Features

- Variety of flower shapes and bloom times
- Host plants for butterflies and moths
- Shallow water sources
- Natural habitat areas for overwintering
- Chemical-free maintenance

Environmental Impact

- Supports declining pollinator populations
- Improves soil health and water absorption
- Reduces long-term maintenance needs
- Contributes to a resilient ecosystem

Conclusion

The establishment of a pollinator garden is a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial initiative for Forty-Fort Borough. It will serve as a lasting resource for wildlife, education, and community engagement while promoting sustainable land use practices.