

## Creating Custom Pollinator Garden Plans

The Mississippi Hills chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists wants to help people be successful when they plan their Pollinator Gardens and plant native plants on their land. We can assist in the process by working with individual landowners who already have gardening experience and who understand that all gardens require maintenance.

Here is the assistance our committee can provide a landowner:

1. Help the landowner determine what plan is best suited for the location and soil type of the site, and whether any soil amendment would be beneficial.
2. Help the landowner locate a source for plants.
3. Drive to the plant nursery and pick up the plants the day before planting.
4. Organize a workday for Chapter volunteers to plant the garden.

Here are our expectations of what an individual landowner would do:

1. Prepare the bed (landowners would decide the location and size of the bed, which only makes sense since they will be maintaining the garden once it is planted)
2. Pay for the plants.
3. Maintain the garden after it is planted.

This model of working with landowners on private lands is in line with Doug Tallamy's idea for *Homegrown National Parks*.

“Our National Parks, no matter how grand in scale, are too small and separated from one another to persevere species to the levels needed. Thus, the concept of Homegrown National Park, a bottom-up call-to-action to restore habitat where we live and work and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, extends national parks to our yards and communities.” —Doug Tallamy

Take the first step on your path to creating a Pollinator Garden by reaching out to us using the “Contact Us” link on our website homepage. Our Pollinator Garden committee chairs, Ann and Pam, will reach out to you to discuss what you are looking for and decide how we can assist. We can help you create a plan, find the resources you need, and recruit willing hands to make your ideas a reality!