

Pollinator Gardens

Chris Baeckstrom, SIA Pollinator Garden Team

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What is a Pollinator Garden

A pollinator garden is designed to contain plants to provide food and shelter to animals (bees, birds, butterflies, small mammals, etc.) that pollinate plants that support the local ecosystem.

Is there an issue?

Yes. Pollinators are in decline.

Pollinator decline is attributed primarily to the loss of habitat and to the use of pesticides.

Urbanization is occurring at an alarming rate; our green space is disappearing.

Can we do anything?

It's in our bylaws - Article III, Section 2: The SIA shall strive to maintain the beauty and stability of our beach and bay environment and shall respond to any threats affecting the ecology of our beaches and wildlife.

We are already doing things in Strathmere - Beach plum planting on dunes

Pollinator gardens are the next step

Our Team

Chris Konicki

Rose Rhine

David Cummings

Marian Rossi

Chris Baeckstrom

Advisory Team

- Deb Rivel
- Linda Bateman
- Juliette Schlucter

We are not experts!

We are not alone

Upper Township Green Team

Most shore town have Green Teams

Homegrown National Park® is a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks

More resources later

Where can we plant pollinator gardens in Strathmere?

Public space

Homeowners

Commercial

What do we plant

Native plants! Why?

For us to enjoy! They have evolved over thousands of years to be adapted to conditions in a particular region and to the other plants and animals around them.

They thrive in our local climate and soil and have natural defenses to plant diseases, harmful insects, and other pests.

Save time and money - Require less water and fertilizer.

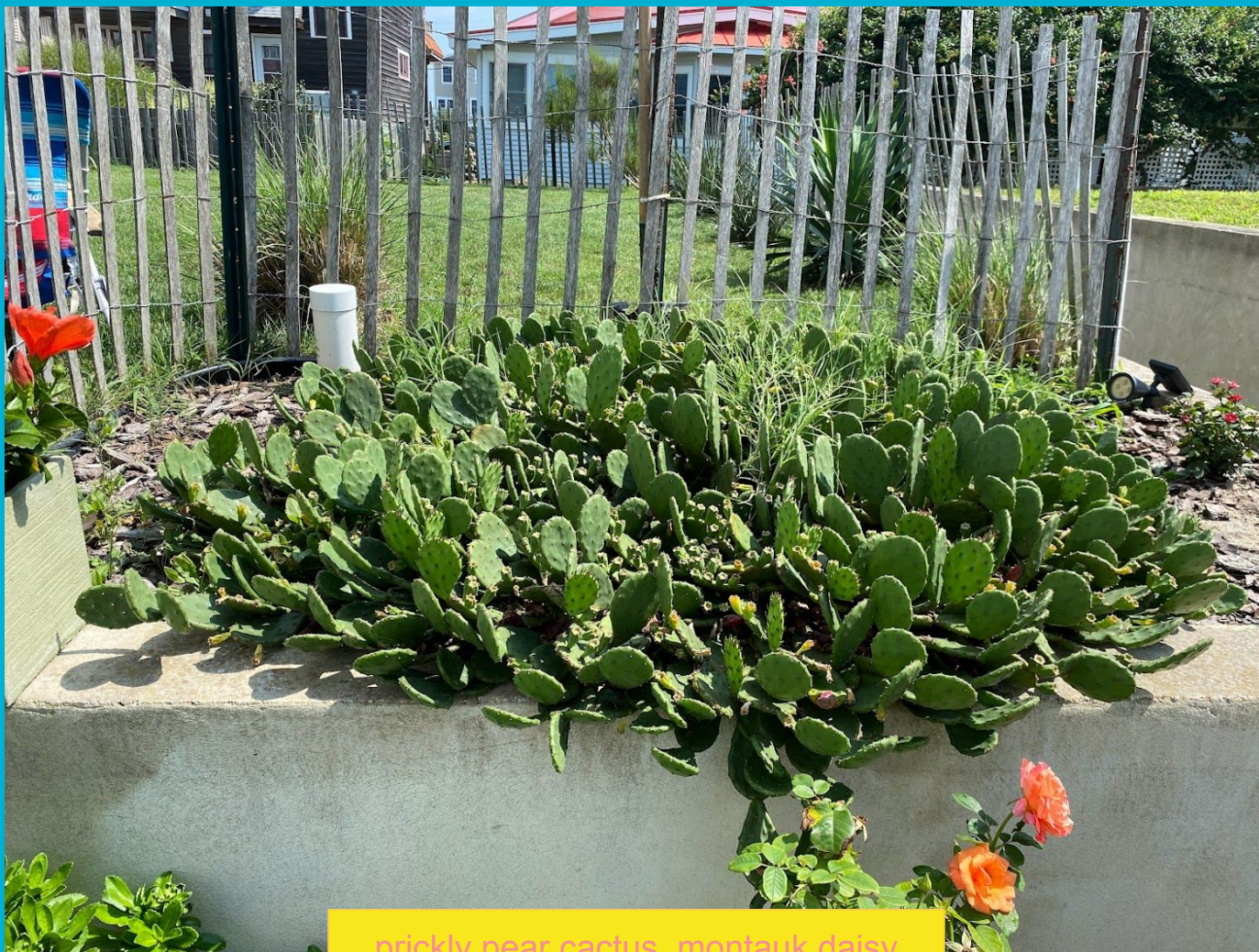
Bring in the birds and butterflies - they provide the essential food, shelter and nesting sites.

Improve water quality - Their roots hold soil in place, increase infiltration of rainwater into the ground, and filter pollutants from our water.

Gardens in Strathmere Today



Black-Eyed Susan, sedum, holly



prickly pear cactus, montauk daisy



Cattails, Bayberry, Beach Plum, Wild Rose
Milkweed - specifically for monarchs et al., Native
Iris, Native Hibiscus, Serviceberry
Hackberry, Mallow, Rattlesnake master, Native
Asters, Foxglove beardtongue
Seaside Goldenrod, Foam flower, Mistflower, Joe
Pye Weed, native grasses
native sunflowers



Black-Eyed Susan, Phlox, Wax-myrtle



Black-Eyed Susan, BE Susan, Purple
Cone, Sedum, Winterberry



joe pye, swamp milkweed, coneflower, goldenrod, blue aster, yarrow, sneezeweed



Joe pye weed



Joe Pye Weed, Goldenrod, Speedwell, False sunflower, Obedient plant

What can one person do? Homegrown National Park says:

Shrink the lawn

Add a pollinator garden

Remove your invasive plants

Add keystone plants

Modify your lights

Join Homegrown National Park

Keystone Plants

Keystone Plants are the most productive plants for the most productive insects! Doug Tallamy's research at the University of Delaware has shown that a few genera of native plants, or keystone genera, form the backbone of local ecosystems, particularly in terms of producing the food that fuels insects. By planting just one of these keystone plants you can help restore native biodiversity! Landscapes that do not contain one or more species of keystone genera will have failed food webs, even if the diversity of other plants is very high.

Library

Books for you to borrow

- Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard - Doug Tallamy
- Nature's Best Hope (Young Readers' Edition): How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard - Doug Tallamy
- Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants- Doug Tallamy
- The Pollinator Victory Garden: Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening; Attract and Support Bees, Beetles, Butterflies, Bats, and Other Pollinators - Kim Elerman
- National Wildlife Federation: Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife, Expanded Second Edition (Creative Homeowner) 17 Projects & Step-by-Step Instructions to Give Back to Nature - David Mizejewski

Pollinator Garden coming soon

Best plant to plant at the shore - Goldenrod



Best tree to plant - Oak



Steps to Plant your pollinator garden

Start small - even containers

Select your space

Select your Native Plants

- Jersey-Friendly Yards <https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/native-plants/> - DEMO
- National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder - search by zip code <https://nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>
- Pat Sutton's Wildlife Garden <http://www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/>

Mulch - salt hay or cedar mulch

Water

No pesticides

Where to get your native plants

Goshen Gardens

570 N. Delsea Drive (also known as Rt. 47), Cape May Court House, NJ

Flora for Fauna Nursery - open by appointment ONLY

1209 Freidriechstadt Ave, Woodbine, NJ 08270

Earth First Native Plant Nursery, LLC,

609-287-5090, call after 6:30 pm

Tips

- Purchase locally grown native plants
- Purchase from a reputable nursery that doesn't use systemic insecticides
- Provide a continuous succession of plants blooming from spring to fall
- Plant in groups of one variety
- Plant white, yellow, and blue flowers for bees
- Plant pink, purple, red, yellow, and orange for butterflies
- Plant red or orange flowers for hummingbirds
- Include larval host plants in landscape
- Provide a shallow source of water and refresh every three days
- Eliminate pesticide use
- Use compost or leaf mulch to build soil fertility

Resources

- Homegrown National Park <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>
 - 10 Things to Get You Started
- Jersey-Friendly Yards
<https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/native-plants/>
- National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder - search by zip code
<https://nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>
- Pat Sutton's Wildlife Garden <http://www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com/>
 - Join her gardening gang!
- Avalon Environmental Commission - website and brochure

What's Next

Sign up

Contact us - add your garden to our database, tell us what you're doing, ask us questions

Join us