

## NATIVE PLANTS at Dobbs Ferry Waterfront: *Friends Meadow*

Planted and maintained by volunteers from Friends of Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park

The Friends started planting a variety of native plants in the spring of 2021 in Willow Point and have since expanded its plantings to McKellar Cove, River Garden, and the 9/11 Memorial. Once established, these perennial plants are low maintenance and good for the environment - and our pollinator friends. The following is a list of plants, and the reasons why we selected each one. We hope this helps you select native perennials for your own gardens.

### Perennials that prefer full sun



**Asclepias Tuberosa** *Milkweed/Butterfly weed*



**Asclepias Verticillata**

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun and well drained, drier soil.</li> <li>• Easy to grow</li> <li>• Deer and drought-resistant.</li> <li>• Mature plants self-seed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from June into September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monarch butterflies need milkweed plants to survive. Monarchs lay their eggs on milkweed, the hatched caterpillars consume plant foliage for growth/development, and adult monarchs consume the flower nectar.</li> <li>• The continuous display of orange or white flowers are highly attractive to several species of butterflies and hummingbirds.</li> <li>• They have a pleasing fragrance and provide attractive fall foliage.</li> </ul>



**Coreopsis verticillata** (Grandiflora) *Tickseed*



**Coreopsis verticillata** (Zagreb)

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun and drier soil.</li> <li>• Low maintenance and drought-tolerant.</li> <li>• Deer and rabbit resistant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They bloom in the spring and will continue to produce flowers into the early fall if deadheaded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides good ground cover, spreads nicely, and is easily controlled in the landscape.</li> <li>• Coreopsis provides nectar and pollen for native bees and butterflies, as well as good spring forage for pollinators.</li> </ul>



**Schizachyrium scoparium** *Little Bluestem*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun and drier soil.</li> <li>• Grows to be about 2-3 feet tall.</li> <li>• Deer resistant and drought tolerant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from August to October.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a bluish color in the spring and turns reddish brown in the fall continuing through the winter.</li> <li>• Host to many types of skipper butterflies.</li> </ul>



**Symphyotrichum Oblongifolium** *Aromatic aster*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun and drier soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late bloomers, with abundant flowers from August to September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asters produce nectar and pollen for all our pollinators, and host 109 species of caterpillars, including the pearl crescent butterfly and the saddleback caterpillar moth.</li> </ul>



**Helenium Autumnale** *Common sneezeweed*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun and moist soil.</li> <li>Easily grown and low maintenance but may be pruned to control their size.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late bloomers, with showy flowers which bloom from mid-summer to September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helenium Autumnale attracts butterflies and many other insect pollinators.</li> </ul>

#### Fun Fact!

- Despite their nickname, sneezeweed does not have pollen grains that can be carried by wind and cause hay fever symptoms as ragweed does. Insects pollinate common sneezeweed, not wind.





**Monarda Fistulosa** *Bee balm*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun and moist soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms from mid-summer to early fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monarda is an excellent butterfly and hummingbird plant.</li> <li>Produces pollen and nectar.</li> <li>Provides cover for wildlife and nest sites for birds.</li> </ul>



**Phlox Subulata** *Moss Phlox*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun and moist, well drained soil.</li> <li>Deer resistant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms in early-mid spring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good ground cover, however it is known for creeping.</li> <li>Provides nectar for bees, skippers, and butterflies.</li> </ul>



**Gaura**      *Beeblossom*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun and deep, well drained soil.</li> <li>• Tolerates drought, is low maintenance, and deer resistant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from early summer into the fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically clumps and grows to 2-4 feet, however there are more compact species.</li> <li>• Attracts many butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.</li> </ul>



**Sporobolus Heterolepis**      *Prairie Dropseed*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun.</li> <li>• Can grow to be 2-3 feet tall.</li> <li>• Deer and drought resistant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms in late summer to early fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native grass that can be used as ground cover.</li> <li>• A host plant for six species of butterflies or moths. Attracts birds.</li> </ul>

## Plants that prefer full sun to partial shade



**Echinacea Purpurea** - *Purple Coneflower*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun to partial shade and drier soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms from early summer through mid-fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They have a nice vertical upright growth and provide deciduous groundcover.</li> <li>Echinacea is an excellent source of midsummer pollen and nectar which is attractive to birds and butterflies.</li> <li>Seed heads attract goldfinches.</li> </ul>



**Solidago caesia** *Blue stemmed goldenrod*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun to partial shade and drier soil.</li> <li>Grow to be 1 ½-3 feet tall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms in late summer to early fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forms clumps.</li> </ul>





**Hydrangea Quercifolia**      *Oak Leaf Hydrangea*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers sun in the morning, shade in the afternoon and drier soil.</li> <li>• Grows to 4-8 feet tall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms in late spring to early summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a native shrub that attracts some pollinators.</li> </ul>



**Amsonia Tabernaemontana (Starstruck)** *Bluestar*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade and moist soil.</li> <li>• Easy to grow, deer tolerant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from late spring to early summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amsonia Tabernaemontana is a good butterfly nectar plant, spring bloomers with lovely blue flowers</li> <li>• Attractive fall color and provides deciduous groundcover.</li> </ul>



**Eutrochium Dubium** *Little Joe Pye*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade and moist soil.</li> <li>• They are easily grown and are deer-tolerant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from July through September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Joe Pye supports 41 species of caterpillars.</li> <li>• They produce pollen and nectar and attract numerous bees as well as butterflies.</li> </ul>



**Pycnanthemum muticum**  
*short-toothed mountain mint*



**Pycnanthemum tenuifolium**  
*narrow-leaved mountain mint*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade and moist soil.</li> <li>• Easily grown and low maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from July to September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountain mint is a superior source of nectar and pollen for native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.</li> <li>• Provides cover for wildlife.</li> <li>• Has a pleasant mint-like fragrance when leaves are rubbed.</li> </ul>





**Geranium Maculatum**

*Wild Geranium*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade. However, it can grow in full sun if the soil is consistently damp.</li> <li>• Requires little maintenance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms in late spring and early summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If enough is planted, it can be used as ground cover.</li> <li>• Pollinated by bees, as well as some butterflies.</li> </ul>



**Baptisia**

*Wild Indigo*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade.</li> <li>• Fairly tolerant to droughts.</li> <li>• Grows to about 2-4 feet tall.</li> <li>• In the first two years it is planted it mostly develops below ground.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms early to mid-summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shrub-like plant.</li> <li>• Attracts many pollinators.</li> </ul>



**Liatris Spicata**      *Liatris Blazing Star*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun and well drained soil, however they will tolerate some shade.</li> <li>• Can grow up to 5 feet tall.</li> <li>• Deer resistant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms in mid to late summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attracts many different pollinators as well as provides seeds for birds in the fall.</li> </ul>



**Zizia Aurea**      *Golden Alexander*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms in the spring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are a dynamic filler layer: they find and inhabit gaps in the planting beds.</li> <li>• Zizia attracts butterflies and hosts the swallowtail.</li> </ul>



**Waldsteinia fragarioides**     *Barren strawberry*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun to partial shade in moist, humus-rich soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms in April to May.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deciduous groundcover.</li> <li>Their yellow flowers produce pollen and nectar in spring.</li> <li>They function as cover for wildlife and erosion control.</li> </ul>



**Vernonia Lettermannii**     *Iron Butterfly*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prefers full sun to partial shade.</li> <li>Prefers moist soil, but can tolerate some drought and occasional flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blooms in mid-to-late summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forms vigorous clumps of narrow stems with fine, feathery foliage.</li> <li>Produces pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies.</li> <li>Their showy, long-lasting blooms are highly attractive to hummingbirds and many other pollinators, and especially for the last butterflies of the season.</li> <li>They provide food for wintering birds.</li> </ul>





**Solidago Rugosa (Fireworks)** *Goldenrod*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefer full sun to partial shade.</li> <li>• Drought tolerant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blooms from late August into the fall when other pollinator plants are waning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An excellent meadow plant that supplies cover, seed, pollen, nectar, and food for 115 species of caterpillars.</li> <li>• Solidago is attractive to bees and butterflies and provides nest sites for birds and food for wintering birds.</li> </ul>

**Fun Fact!**

- Solidago (goldenrod) has been wrongfully accused of causing hay fever which is an allergic reaction to wind-borne pollen from other plants such as ragweed.



**Rudbeckia fulgida** *Black-eyed Susan or Orange coneflower*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade.</li> <li>• Easy to grow</li> <li>• They slowly self-sow and are drought-tolerant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prolific bloomer from mid-summer to early fall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a special value to native bees. Its nectar attracts butterflies, and it supports the reproduction of dozens of insect pollinator species. Their seeds are eaten by birds in the late fall and winter.</li> </ul>



**Agastache Foeniculum (Blue Fortune)** *Anise Hyssop*

Growing Conditions	Bloom Period	Benefits and uses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers full sun to partial shade and good drainage.</li> <li>• Tolerates drought and is deer resistant.</li> <li>• Grows to 2-4 feet tall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-blooming from mid to late summer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adds structure; its spikes of lavender blue flowers allow light to penetrate to the lower levels of the garden.</li> <li>• Forms clumps.</li> <li>• In October, Agastache begins to turn yellow-green and then a rich dark brown, providing fall and winter character.</li> <li>• Excellent plant for pollinators.</li> <li>• Finches eat their seeds in winter.</li> <li>• The leaves have an anise scent and are commonly used in teas or eaten in salads in small quantities.</li> <li>• The flowers are also edible.</li> <li>• Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators</li> </ul>