

Dear Members of the City Commission of Arkansas City,

The non-functional fountain that resides in the Docking Garden is a centerpiece of Wilson Park. Unfortunately, it's now filled with sterilized dirt (and possibly sand) and has become something of an eyesore in this beautiful section of our city's most popular park.

We, the Friends of Wilson Park, would like to turn it into a pollinator garden, which would make it more visually appealing while also helping these vital insects to thrive.

If this adoption proposal is approved, we would plant a wide variety of pollinator-friendly plants that will provide pollen to various species of insects throughout the year.

After discussion with the Parks and Facilities Division of the Public Services Department, City staff has agreed to provide non-sterilized replacement soil and access to water.

In return, we will provide the plants, install them and regularly maintain the beds (including watering, weeding, etc.) with volunteer labor. We also propose to use the existing Friends of Wilson Park Facebook page to help the City to raise pollinator awareness as part of its pledge.

We've already had one business express interest in helping to provide plants for this project, which shows there is community support for this endeavor.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

The Friends of Wilson Park:

Robin Henderson, Nancy Holman, Paisley Howerton, Anita Judd-Jenkins, Tammy Lanman-Henderson, Kayleigh Lawson, Rags Smith

Plants by Season and Pollinator

Winter

Heather (Attracts bees and other insects)

Witch Hazel (Attracts multiple flying insects including moths and bees)

Spring

Columbine (Attracts multiple families of bees; blooms through the summer)

Lavender (Attracts bees and butterflies; blooms from the spring through the summer)

Mexican Heather (Attracts bees and butterflies; this blooms from the spring to the fall and, depending on the weather, can bloom through the winter as well)

Summer

Anise Hyssop (Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds)

Bee Balm (Attracts bees and butterflies)

Bellflower (Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds)

Betony (Attracts bees and butterflies)

Black-eyed Susan (Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds)

Echinacea (Attracts multiple families of bees; blooms through the summer)

Garden Speedwell (Attracts bees and butterflies)

Stokes Aster (Attracts bees and butterflies)

Yarrow (Attracts bees, butterflies and other insects)

Fall

Sea Holly (Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds; blooms in the summer to fall)

Sweet Asylum (Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds; blooms summer to fall)