

# Pollinator Partnership Capstone

## Amy Sawyer

**POLLINATOR**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

# Amy Sawyer— Training & Experience

- U Maryland Extension Master Gardener
- Xerces Ambassador (Bee City USA)
- U Maryland Environmental Finance Center Climate Stewards Academy
- Anacostia Watershed Society Watershed Stewards (fall 2026)
- MAEOE Green Schools Evaluator
- Co-lead with PGCMLS afterschool program and community garden at MRES
- Co-lead Capitol Heights Elementary School Green Club
- 30+ years involvement in urban gardening and 100s of hours of webinars, classes, lectures, and books about native plants, habitat creation, stormwater management, pollinators



## Pollinator Stewards Certification

- 3 months of training sessions
- evaluation of lessons learned
- capstone project (habitat creation & educational experience)

# Native Plant Pollinator Gardens in the Community



- A place for the community to gather
- Educational--learn about native plants, storm water management, and habitat creation
- Supports wildlife
- Commonly used plants grow 1-3' tall with particularly high wildlife value and long bloom period

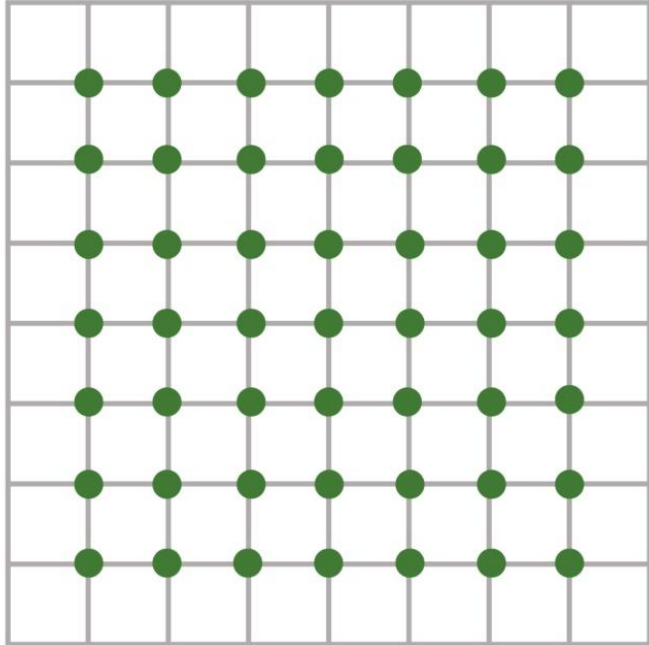
# No Money, Only Land



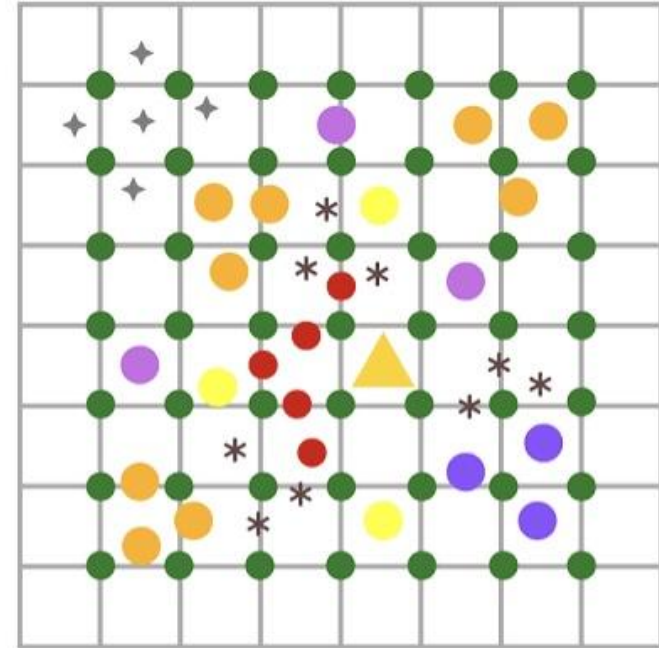
300—400 ft<sup>2</sup> space

Funded through grants and in-kind donation

# Pollinator Garden Overview



Matrix Garden Design



A combination of bunch grasses, sedges, or occasionally perennials are planted in a grid to form the base of the garden. This greatly cuts down on weed pressure while flowering perennials are getting established in the first 3-5 years. There is an added benefit to fireflies by adding bunch grasses.

# Cottage City Pollinator Garden



## GATHERING PLACE

- Citizen Science and outdoor STEM
- Quiet, curated place for the community to come to work or relax
- Sustainable Maryland: free wifi for 10 points



## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

- Bilingual Education via PG Audubon signs
- Sustainable Maryland:
  - NWF Certification 10 pts
  - Innovative Demonstration Project 5-10 points



## OPPORTUNITIES

- Student Service Hours
- Free native plants from community clean up events

# Cost: From Town: \$0 Grants: \$2—3000

Mulch: free from chipdrop or \$12 per cubic yard from College Park (plus pick up)

Matrix Planting: \$1,000—1,500 depending on species chosen and density

Perennials: less than \$200 if all winter sown from seed, \$500 for winter sown plus purchase

Optional: shrubs and specialty perennials \$500

Audubon Signs: TBD but I've been in touch with Kathy Shollenberger

National Wildlife Federation

Monarch Watch

Certified Firefly Habitat

Xerces Pollinator Habitat



Cost is dependent on the material the sign is printed on (ie aluminum vs high end), cost to register, and administrative work to complete the registration.

Generally the cost per program is \$40—120.

## Potential Funding Sources:

- Raincheck Rebate (Conservation Landscaping)
- America in Bloom
- Sustainable Maryland Action Grant
- Free Plants: Nature Forward, Bonna Terra, GreenWorks



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# Timeline: Educational for Community

June:	lay down 8-12” mulch or combination of cardboard/ mulch to eliminate grass
Summer:	finalize layout and plant list
Fall 2026:	install matrix and available perennials
Winter 2026:	winter sow remaining perennials
Spring 2027:	install remaining perennials
Ongoing:	Apply for grants (timeline is dependent on grant funding)

## Commitment from Amy Sawyer:

- Six free educational workshops open to the community to teach the principals covered in these topics
- Design of appropriate take home materials for each session
- Installation of native plant pollinator garden on town property