

The City of Madison Heights Environmental Citizens Committee Bloom Project Mini-Grant Program Application

Deadline: April 2, 2023

Review Period: April 3-16, 2023

Award Announcement: April 24, 2023

The City of Madison Heights Michigan established the Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC), in part, to educate the public and encourage citizen participation in programs and projects to improve the environment. Building on that goal, the Bloom Project, a subcommittee of the ECC, designed this mini-grant program to educate and encourage citizen participation in planting and maintaining native gardens. This mini-grant program aims to:

- Increase awareness of the many benefits of native plants in our community
- Provide how-to resources for establishing native plants at your home, school, or organization
- Provide funding to support establishing or growing native gardens

What's a native plant?

Native plants are the plant species that are naturally found in your area. Plants introduced from other regions of the United States or other parts of the world are called exotics. Native plants have evolved in your region over the course of hundreds of thousands of years. These plants thrive in the local soils, rainfall levels, weather, and climate conditions. Every region has different native plant communities.

Why are native plants important?

Native plants support local ecosystems better than introduced species, primarily by supporting food webs far better than non-natives. From perennial wildflowers to berrying shrubs to canopy trees, native plants are beautiful and functional choices for any landscape. Many are just as ornamental as common exotics. They are unique to your geographic region! When you plant natives, you reconnect your yard or garden to the natural world around you. When many of us plant natives in a particular area, we help to create wildlife corridors that are necessary to sustain groups of plants and animals in our highly altered modern landscapes. Plus, native trees and flower beds typically require less fertilizer and water than lawns, saving you time and money!

Wildlife evolved alongside the native plants in your region and use those natives as food, shelter, and a place to raise their young. As a result, nearly every living creature on the planet relies on native plants for survival. They are the foundation of local food webs, giving butterflies, birds, and other wildlife what they need to survive.¹

Are you ready to apply for the mini-grant?

If you are hoping to plant a native garden at your home, school, or organization in Madison Heights and need additional resources to get started, this might be the right opportunity for you.

Requirements

¹ [About - Native Plants Finder \(nwf.org\)](https://www.nwf.org/About-Native-Plants-Finder)

- Garden is located in Madison Heights
- If applicant is not the owner of the property, must have written permission from the property owner
- Plan to establish garden in the 2023 growing season
- All plants or seeds purchased must be native plants. Unfortunately, true native plants are not readily available at local stores, and it can be hard to sort out what is look-alike or cultivar.. If you need a list of trusted places to purchase, we can provide that to you.
- Complete the full application by the deadline

Award Information

The number of awards will vary depending on the amount of funding available, the number and types of applications received, and award amounts. Home/residence awards will not exceed \$400. School and organization awards will not exceed \$3,000. There is not a minimum award requirement. There is a limited amount of funding and not all applicants will receive funding.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bloom Project at thebloomprojectmh@gmail.com

Application Questions

1. Full Name
2. Phone Number
3. Email Address
4. At what type of site is your garden location?
 - a. Home/residence
 - b. School
 - c. Organization
5. What is the name of the school or organization? (if applicable)
6. Where is your garden located? Please include the full address and picture of area to be converted to a Native Garden.
7. Why are you interested in applying for this mini-grant?
8. What plants are you hoping to plant and why? Please note if you don't know yet and if you need some support in this area. All plants or seeds purchased must be native plants. Unfortunately, true native plants are not readily available at local stores, and it can be hard to sort out what is look-alike or cultivar. If you need a list of trusted places to purchase, we can provide that to you.
9. What is your plan for establishing and maintaining the garden? Please include an estimated timeline for each step.
10. Who will be helping with your garden?
11. What resources do you have available for your garden?
12. What information or resources do you still need?
13. Please attach an estimated budget for your garden plan here.
14. If the applicant is not the owner of the property where the garden will be planted, please attach written permission from the property owner here.
15. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Email Confirmation of Application Received:

Thank you for your interest in enhancing the local ecosystem in Madison Heights! The committee will review your application at the designated time and will follow-up with award announcements once the decisions are made. If you have any questions, please contact the Bloom Project at thebloomprojectmh@gmail.com.