



## NATIVE LANDSCAPE PLANNING WORKSHOP- NATURALISTIC DESIGN

### PLAN ORIENTATION

- Legend at bottom R with name, address, north arrow and scale
- Key with plant list on same or separate page

### PLANT SELECTION

- Light and water requirements
- Bloom time- *3-4 at a time, across all seasons*
- Behavior- *behaved, moderate, aggressive*
- Root type- *fibrous, tap, bulb, rhizomatous?*
- Appearance- *different heights, foliage, structure?*
- Variety of types- *herbaceous, shrub, tree*
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### PLANT PLACEMENT

- Density- *THICK is recommended- 1 plant per sq ft*
- Matrix- *~50% bunch grass, ~30% perennials for color, ~10% perennials for structure, ~10% blooming groundcover*
- Arrangement- *drifts, masses, scatter*

### STRUCTURE

- Boulders, shrubs, berms
- "Cues to Care"- *paths, benches, arbors, sculptures, fences etc. (Vogt, pg 69)*

### RESOURCES

- **Books-** Bringing Nature Home, by Doug Tallamy, Prairie Up, by Benjamin Vogt, Planting. A New Perspective, by Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury
- **Websites**
  - The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation- [xerces.org](http://xerces.org) \*plant lists and more
  - National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder- [nwf.org](http://nwf.org) \*keystone plant species!
  - Benjamin Vogt's Monarch Gardens- [monarchgard.com](http://monarchgard.com) \*great online workshops
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- **Plant and seed purchase**
  - Local Nurseries
  - Online- High Country Gardens, Prairie Moon Nursery, Colorado State Forest Service Seedling Tree Nursery
  - Front Range: High Plains Environmental Center, Gardens on Spring Creek *Spring Plant Sale*
- **Visit**
  - Platte Farm Open Space, Denver
  - Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins
  - Basalt Plant Select Demonstration Gardens
  - Thompson House, Carbondale- coming May '24

## NATIVE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT EXAMPLE LIST

### Structure

Lead plant- <i>Amorpha canescens</i>	June
Rabbitbrush- <i>Chrysothamnus nauseosa</i>	September, October
Sagebrush- <i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	

### Groundcover/Matrix- 50%

Fringed Sage <i>Artemisia frigida</i>	
Blue Grama Grass- <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	

### Color- 35%

Showy Goldenrod- <i>Solidago speciosa</i>	August, September, October
Narrow Leaf Echinacea- <i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	July
Blazing Star- <i>Liatris punctata</i>	July, August, September
Whirling Butterflies- <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>	June, July, August
Rocky Mtn Penstemon- <i>Penstemon strictus</i>	June
Missouri Evening Primrose*- <i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	June
Purple Prairie Clover- <i>Dalea purpurea</i>	July, August
Colorado 4 O'clock*- <i>Mirabilis multiflora</i>	May, June, July, August, September

### Filler- 10% from seed

Blue Flax- <i>Linum Lewisii</i>	June, July
Rocky Mtn Bee Plant- <i>Cleome serrulata</i>	August, September

### Add bulbs for spring color

\*FUN FACT: sphinx moth feeds on 4 O'clock nectar and lays eggs on evening primrose, covering their whole life cycle!



## **MISSION**

Our mission is to increase Carbondale's biodiversity, drought tolerance, and beauty through native and regionally adapted plants. Inspired by both water and wildlife conservation, we aim to identify, replace, and manage the transformation of nonessential irrigated turf into resilient, pollinator-friendly landscapes.

## **WHY BEE FRIENDLY?**

Native landscapes are productive ecosystems that shelter wildlife, clean water, store carbon and pollinate our gardens. Much of the native flora and fauna that thrived in Carbondale's semi-desert climate has been replaced by development and the water-loving, green turf lawn.

Lawns have many benefits- they are great to run, relax, and play on. They dampen noise, control erosion, mitigate weeds, and counter the heat-island effect. They also provide visually-pleasing "negative space" to landscape design. Unfortunately, lawns are also monocultures that stymie biodiversity and contribute to the loss of insect and bird populations. They are high-maintenance and use 12x more water than native plants.

*Bee-ing Friendly* means using our landscape wisely to restore habitat for native plants and buzzing bees. A healthy ecosystem is vital for a healthy community!

## **GOALS**

1. Smartly use our municipal and residential **water** resources.
2. Reduce **energy** consumption related to turf maintenance.
3. Cultivate **native plants** in our home gardens and public landscapes.
4. Increase bee, bird and butterfly **habitat**.
5. Create pollinator **corridors** throughout Carbondale.
6. Connect our **community** to our natural environment.

## **ACTIONS**

1. Residential Resources:
  - Create local resources for native landscape education geared toward Carbondale residents. Maintain a website database, facilitate mentorship, and host learning sessions to promote these resources.
2. Update Municipal Landscape Standards:
  - Partner with Town of Carbondale to create low-water and native-focused landscape standards to be incorporated into commercial and residential development.
3. Native Pollinator Demonstration Gardens:
  - Transform portions of public landscapes into regionally-adapted pollinator habitats by leveraging grant funding, town staff partnerships, and community collaborators.