

Welcome to the Muhlenberg Native Plant Meadow

The Muhlenberg Botanical Society created this meadow in 1997, using seeds they had collected by hand from isolated spots throughout the county.

All of the plants in this meadow are native to Lancaster County, which means they evolved here and are adapted to the local environmental conditions, such as soil type, rainfall and temperatures. Correspondingly, native wild animals are uniquely adapted to and depend upon these plants for survival.



But aren't all plants growing in the Park native?

No, in fact many plants growing in Lancaster county and across the country are non-native species. Such plants have been introduced to the United States from other countries. Some, like multi-flora rose were introduced intentionally as a living fence. While others, like purple loosestrife, were introduced accidentally.

Because non-native species did not evolve in this area, local wild animals don't readily recognize these plants as food. Consequently, these plants can grow in greater abundance than natives, out competing native species and dominating the landscape.

Why does it matter that non-native plants dominate the landscape?

When non-natives replace native plant species, wild animals have a harder time finding food. In some locations, populations of birds and insects have declined partly due to a loss of their native food sources.



However, birds and insects are not the only wild animals affected. Bird and insect-eaters are also affected, as are herbivores, such as deer, rabbits, and a variety of rodents.

Being at the bottom of the food chain, native plants serve as the foundation for all living beings. Losses of native plant species affect all animals, including humans.

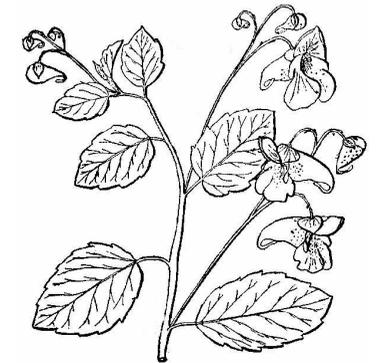
What is the solution?

Whenever possible, plant native species in home gardens. Native plant gardens attract the most diverse populations of birds, butterflies and other fascinating critters.



For information about how to design a native plant garden, call the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation's Environmental Center at (717) 295-2055.

Guide to the Muhlenberg Native Plant Meadow



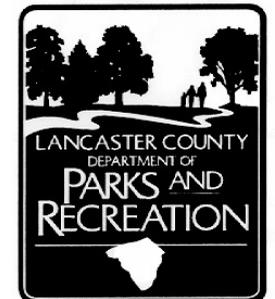
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Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

Lancaster County Central Park



Muhlenberg Native Plant Meadow contains the most number of plant and animal species of any area in Central Park. In other words, it exhibits the greatest biodiversity.

Which of the following native species of plants and animals can you find?

Wildflowers

- | | | | |
|---|-------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aster, Calico | F B C | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe-Pye Weed | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heath | F B C | <input type="checkbox"/> Hollow-stemmed | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New England | F B C | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobelia, Great Blue | H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panicked | F B C | <input type="checkbox"/> Mallow, Halberd-leaved | H C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple-stemmed | F B C | <input type="checkbox"/> Milkweed, Common | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beard Tongue | H | <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly | F C H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bee Balm | F H | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bergamont, Wild | F H | <input type="checkbox"/> Swamp | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-eyed Susan | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Mistflower | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blazing Star | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkey-flower, Winged | F H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boneset | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain-mint, Hoary | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal Flower | F H | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow-leaved | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coneflower, Green-headed | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Ox-eye | F B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coreopsis, Tall | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Phlox, Panicked | F H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cress, Creeping Yellow | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Poke | B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culver's-root | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Skullcap, Downy | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Primrose | F B H | <input type="checkbox"/> Smartweed, Pennsylvania | B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> False Dragonhead | F H | <input type="checkbox"/> Snakeroot, White | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Figwort, Maryland | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezeweed, Yellow | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fleabane, Daisy | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunflower, Tall | F B C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gerardia, Purple | | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin-leaved | F B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goldenrod, Early | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Thistle, Field | F B C H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lance-leaved | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Thoroughwort, Hairy | F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Tick-trefoil, Panicked | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough-stemmed | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Turtlehead | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Vervain, Blue | F B H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall | F B | <input type="checkbox"/> Violet, Common Blue | F C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hemp, Indian or Dogbane | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Virgin's Bower | F H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Plantain, Pale | F | <input type="checkbox"/> Wingstem | F B C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ironweed, New York | F | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upland (Listed Species) | F | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem Artichoke | F B | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelweed, Spotted | F H | | |

Plant Consumers:

- B = Bird C = Caterpillar
F = Butterfly H = Hummingbird

Grasses

- Bluestem, Big
- Little
- Broomsedge
- Gamma Grass
- Indian Grass
- Purple Love-grass
- Purple-top
- Switch Grass
- Wild Oats
- Wild Rye, Riverbank
- Virginia

Birds

- Bluebird, Eastern
- Bunting, Indigo
- Blackbird, Redwing
- Cardinal
- Catbird
- Dove, Mourning
- Goldfinch, American
- Grossbeak, Blue
- Hawk, Red Tailed
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
- Junco
- Kingbird
- Owl, Great Horned
- Sparrow, Chipping
- Song
- White-throated
- Swallow, Tree
- Warbler, Common Yellowthroat

Butterflies

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Butterflies | Caterpillar Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Azure, Appalachian | Black Cohosh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring | Dogwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore | Turtlehead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comma | Elm, Nettle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copper, American | Sheep Sorrel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Tailed Blue | Pea Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fritillary, Meadow | Violet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Spangled | Violet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hackberry | Hackberry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hairstreak, Banded | Oaks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grey | Mallow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady, American | Everlasting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painted | Thistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monarch | Milkweed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Crescent | Asters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Admiral | Nettle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Spotted Purple | Cherry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sulphur, Clouded | Clover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange | Alfalfa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swallowtail, Black | Carrot Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spicebush | Spicebush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiger | Cherry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viceroy | Willow |

Skippers

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Skippers | Caterpillar Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duskywing, Sleepy | Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile | Oak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Indigo | Wild Indigo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary Edge | Tick-Trefoil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobomok | Grasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least | Grasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Spotted | Locust |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sootywing, Common | Pigweed |