



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
DANE COUNTY

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DATE: April 9, 2021
TO: Dane County Environmental Council
FROM: Carrie Edgar, Director
RE: Proposal to partner with the Plant Dane Native Plants Program

This plan is proposed to address the Environmental Council's goal of increasing awareness of pollinator friendly practices in community gardens, public spaces, and school grounds. By partnering with the Plant Dane Native Plants Program rather than creating a separate community & school pollinator garden program, the Council can supplement and strengthen this existing popular program. The Plant Dane Native Plants program is not a competitive grant program process but rather an effort to increase the use of native plants and pollinator habitat throughout Dane County.

The Environmental Council will support the Plant Dane Native Plants program by:

- **Providing a pollinator sign to gardens** – A pollinator sign to increase the awareness of the importance of pollinators will be provided to new and existing gardens requesting one and that have blooming plants throughout the garden season.
- **Supporting the purchase of additional pollinator plants** – The annual request for native plants currently exceeds the supply available. Additional plants will help insure that more groups who are interested in developing and maintaining a garden will have access to plants.
- **Providing pollinator educational resources** – All program participants will be made aware and encouraged to utilize and distribute the pollinator educational resources that have been developed and are available through Dane County Extension's Environmental Education Center.
- **Promoting the program** – The Plant Dane Native Plants program will be promoted on the Environmental Council's website.

The Plant Dane Native Plants program will:

- **Co-brand the program** – The Environmental Council will be recognized as a program partner on the Plant Dane Native Plants website and all promotional materials.
- **Add pollinator habitat as a goal of the program** – Add additional language regarding the benefits of native plants and gardens to pollinators on the website and other promotional materials. Submit an end of year report on the quantity and type of pollinator plants that were distributed.
- **Promote the pollinator educational resources** – All program participants will be made aware and encouraged to utilize and distribute the pollinator educational resources that have been developed and are available through Dane County Extension's Environmental Education Center. Add a link to the pollinator resources on the Plant Dane website and include the link with notification of all approved applications. Encourage participants to utilize Pollinator Assessment tool.
- **Strengthen agreement process** – The Native Plants program will strengthen the existing agreement that program recipients sign (1) committing to water and maintaining the garden (2) submitting a photo of the initial planting and (3) submitting a photo of the garden 2-3 years later once it is established.