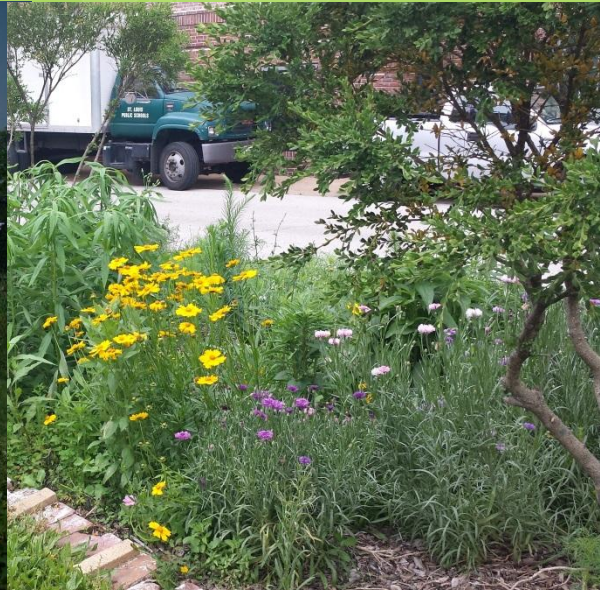


Neighbors Naturescaping: Engaging Citizens to Grow Native Community Gardens



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ST. LOUIS

What is Naturescaping?

- A method of landscaping that works with the natural character of the land and uses native plants in a way similar to their arrangement in nature.
- Selecting the plant that goes with the place rather than changing the place for the plant.



Traditional Landscaping vs.

Naturescaping

Traditional Landscaping	Naturescaping
Change the place to fit the plants (remove/replace soil, add irrigation, pesticides/fertilizers)	Change the plants to fit the place (choose plants that like existing soil and moisture conditions)
Plants mass produced and distributed widely	Plants produced and distributed locally
Plants are more static	Plants are more dynamic
Same design regardless of location	Design varies based on natural character of the land
Minimal wildlife benefit = less biodiversity	Increased wildlife benefit = more biodiversity
Synthetic pesticides/fertilizers contribute to water pollution and less biodiversity	Native plants thrive without pesticides/fertilizers and filter water pollutants

What is Neighbors Naturescaping?

A program offered by Brightside St. Louis to help neighborhood groups enhance their community by planting native gardens in public spaces.



Over 650
projects
completed
since 1995

What is the Purpose?

- Create more sustainable neighborhoods
 - Beautify public spaces in St. Louis city neighborhoods
 - Strengthen communities
 - Restore Missouri native habitat



Prairie Blazing Star



Fringetree



Marsh Milkweed

What are the

• Transform unattractive or underutilized areas into neighborhood assets

Benefits?

- Build community relationships that strengthen commitment to the neighborhood
- Increase property values
- Connect people with nature
- Provide habitat for beneficial wildlife
- Increase biodiversity
- Reduce storm water runoff
- Filter pollutants from storm water
- Reduce exposure to synthetic fertilizers/pesticides

Program Guidelines

- Applicant must be located in St. Louis city
- Eligible Groups (formal or informal)
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Community groups
 - Block units
 - Non-profits
 - School groups



Program Guidelines

- Garden must be located on public property and located in St. Louis city
- Eligible Planting Locations
 - Street medians
 - Parks
 - Street barricades
 - Tree lawns
 - Vacant LRA lots
 - School grounds
 - Neighborhood entrances
 - Other public places approved by Brightside



Program Guidelines



- Up to \$1,500 for plants and related supplies and tools
- At least 60% of total request must be for plant material
- Up to 40% of total request can be used for tools and supplies
- No cash awards

Timeline



Program Kickoff

- Applications available
- Brightside staff explain program and application process
- Encourage attendees to visit Demo Garden
- Encourage Milkweeds for Monarchs Gardens



Demonstration Garden & Learning Center



Demonstration Garden

Sustainable Practices & Features



- Rain garden/bio-swale
- Cistern
- Rain barrels
- Pervious pavers
- Permeable concrete
- Permeable asphalt
- Filterpave
- Native plants
- Cornell Structural Soil
- Silva Cells

St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium

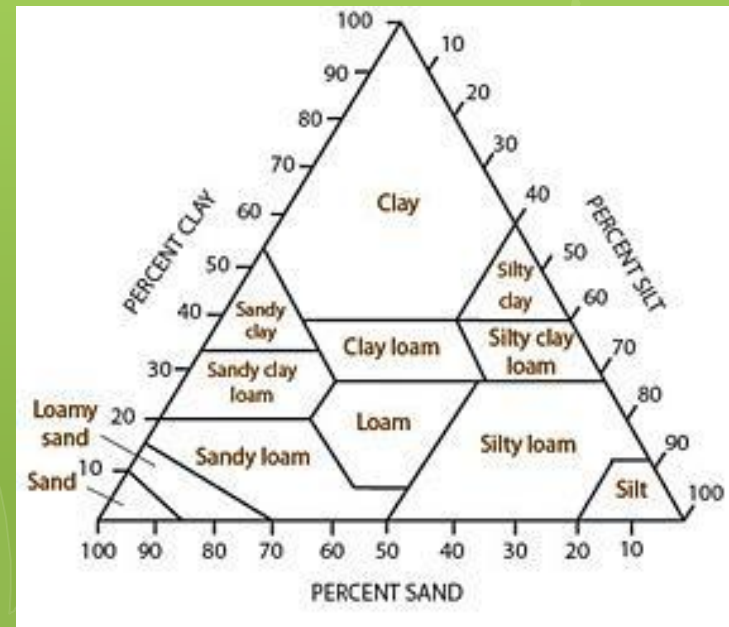
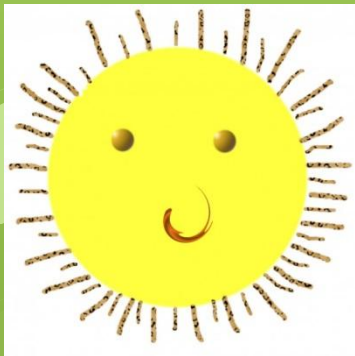


Educational Workshops



Planning & Designing a Successful Neighbors Naturescaping Garden

- Who will be involved?
- What is their commitment level?
- What are the site conditions?
- What is the vision for the site?

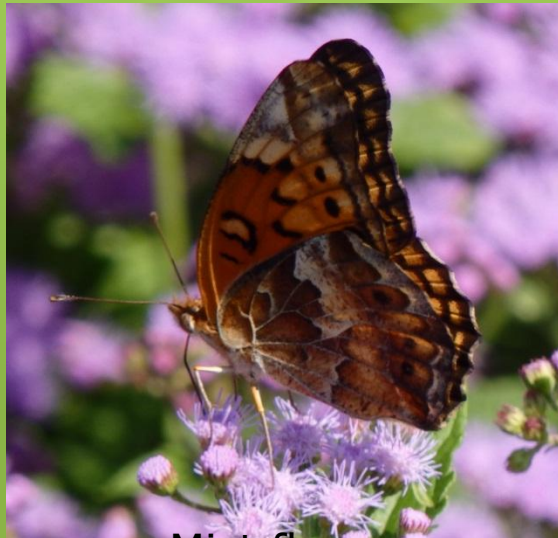


Planning & Designing a Successful Neighbors Naturescaping Garden

- What are the right native plants for your site?
 - Recommended plant material list
 - Brightside's Demo Garden
 - Consider plant height, spread, season of interest, sun and soil preferences, wildlife benefits



MO Evening Primrose



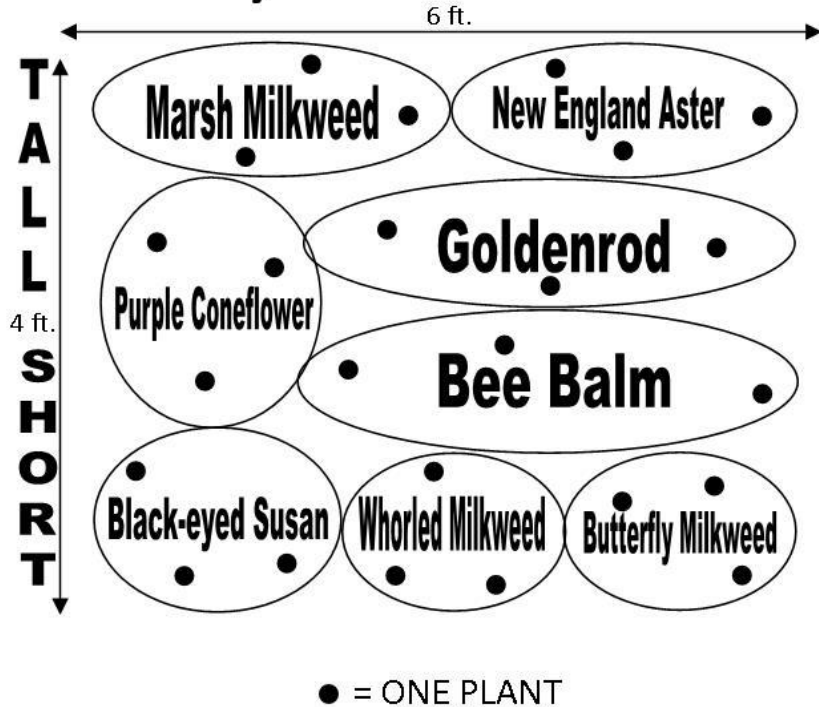
Mist flower



American Beautyberry

Planning & Designing a Successful Neighbors Naturescaping Garden

Butterfly Garden Near A Wall



- Draw a diagram of the planting location
 - Which plants fit your site
 - How many of each plant
 - Where to plant them

Submitting a Proposal

2015 Proposals Due Friday, August 14 by Noon

- Project Application
- Plant Order Form & Budget Summary
- Current photograph of the site
- Diagram of the site as it exists now with proposed plantings marked
- Public Property Permission Authorization

Selection Committee Judging Criteria

- Benefit and involvement of the community (40 points)
- Visibility of project (20 points)
- Group participation in SLUGS workshops (20 points)
- Cooperative efforts (10 points)
- Plan & Budget (10 points)



Implementing & Maintaining a Neighbors Naturescaping Garden



Implement

- Purchase tools and supplies
- Prepare site
- Pick up plants
- Plant garden based on approved plan

Maintain

- Water (until established and during extreme drought)
- Weed removal
- Divide and thin
- Compost/Mulching

What Makes a Neighbors Naturescaping Garden Successful?

- A core group of committed individuals
- Start small
- Educational workshops (SLUGS)
- Demo Garden
- Application process
- Keep garden well maintained
- Seasonal interest
- Highly visible
- Making connections with other neighborhood resources (youth group, hardware store, business district)
- Use garden as a gathering place or learning center



Neighbors Naturescaping 2015 Sponsors



Philpott
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Join us Saturday, June 6

ST. LOUIS URBAN GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

REGISTER AT

WWW.BRIGHTSIDESTL.ORG

WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE

NATIVE PLANTS | RAIN GARDENING | ATTRACTING BIRDS
BUTTERFLY GARDENING | PRUNING | URBAN SOILS | NATIVE GRASSES
ATTRACTING POLLINATORS | NATIVE SHRUBS | NATIVE TREES
CARE & MAINTENANCE | NATURESCAPING

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