

Sun Bioswale Pollinator Garden Design

What is a “Sun Bioswale” design?

This pollinator garden is designed for sunny locations where water flows through after a rain or snow event. Plants near the bottom of the garden are able to tolerate flowing water and moist soils for extended periods of time, while plants near the edges are adapted to slightly drier conditions. Most of the species are native to wet Illinois prairies and they attract a wide variety of pollinators from spring through fall. Leave foliage standing through winter to provide overwintering habitat for wildlife and visual interest throughout the season.

What plants are included in this design?

The native plants used in this design were selected to support pollinators with floral resources throughout the growing season. Plants of various sizes and textures were included in an arrangement created to mix the various sizes, shapes and colors into a visually appealing design. Plants were included in groupings of 3-5 to increase pollinator foraging success by concentrating bloom density into these small clusters of plants. For each plant, we have included a backup, which is another plant of similar visual appeal and pollinator attraction which can be substituted into the design if the original plant is not available.

- **Rose Turtlehead** (Latin name *Chelone obliqua*) –
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium to wet soil moisture
 - White, pink, purple flowers in summer
 - Attracts Bees, hummingbirds, caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Joe Pye Weed (Latin name: *Eutrochium purpureum*)
- **Southern Blue Flag Iris** (Latin name *Iris virginica*) -
 - Full sun
 - Medium to Wet Soil moisture
 - White, yellow, purple flowers late-spring
 - Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds
 - Grows 1 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet wide
 - Backup: Prairie Blazing Star (Latin name *Liatris pycnostachya*)
- **Red-osier Dogwood** (Latin name *Cornus sericea*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium to wet soil moisture
 - White flowers in spring
 - Reddish-purple fall color
 - Attracts Bees, butterflies, flies, wasps, caterpillars
 - Grows 3 to 10 feet tall and 7 to 10 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Buttonbush (Latin name *Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- **Orange Coneflower** (Latin name *Rudbeckia fulgida*) -
 - Partial shade to full sun
 - Dry to medium soil moisture

- Yellow, orange flowers in mid- to late-summer
- Attracts Bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, caterpillars
- Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
- Backup plant: Prairie Coreopsis (Latin name *Coreopsis palmata*)
- **Swamp Milkweed** (Latin name *Asclepias incarnata*) -
 - Full sun to part shade
 - Medium to wet soil moisture
 - Pink flowers in summer
 - Attracts Bees, butterflies, beetles, flies, wasps, hummingbirds, moths, true bugs, caterpillars
 - Grows 3 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Spotted Joe Pye Weed (Latin name *Eutrochium maculatum*)
- **Purple Coneflower** (Latin name *Echinacea purpurea*) -
 - Partial shade to full sun
 - Medium soil moisture
 - Purple flowers in summer
 - Attracts Bees, flies, butterflies, caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide
 - Backup plant: Swamp Rose Mallow (Latin name *Hibiscus moscheutos*)
- **Common Rush** (Latin name *Juncus effusus*) -
 - Full sun
 - Wet soil moisture
 - Yellow-green flowers in summer
 - Attracts caterpillars
 - Grows 2 to 4 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide
 - Backup: Palm Sedge (Latin name *Carex muskigemensis*)
- **Shenandoah Switchgrass** (Latin name *Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'*) -
 - Partial shade to full sun
 - Medium soil moisture
 - Green flowers in late mid-summer
 - Attracts caterpillars
 - Grows 3 to 6 feet tall and 2 to 3 feet wide
 - Backup: Fox Sedge (Latin name *Carex vulpinoidea*)