



POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



NATIVE GARDENS



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

**>>> PEEC IS MAKING STRIDES
TOWARDS UPDATING OUR
GARDENS!**

THANK YOU TO OUR GRANT FUNDER <<<

PEEC has received a grant from Constellation Energy to update our gardens and transition our front flower beds into native gardens. Make sure to stop by to see the progress!



Constellation

WHY PLANT NATIVE GARDENS

8 BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

By Sara Neral

WHAT ARE NATIVE GARDENS?

Native Plants are the indigenous terrestrial and aquatic species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region or ecosystem and habitat. Species native to North America are generally recognized as those existing on the continent prior to European settlement.

>>> SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY

Native plants are adapted to local ecosystems and provide essential habitats. Native wildlife including birds, bees, butterflies, small mammals, and reptiles all benefit from native plant restoration.

>>> WATER CONSERVATION

Adapted for local rainfall patterns, when established, native plants require less water compared to non-native species. This helps promote sustainable landscaping practices.





➤➤➤ REDUCED PESTICIDE USE

Because they have evolved alongside other native plants and wildlife, native plants are more resistant to pests than those that haven't. This minimizes the need for harmful chemicals, and creates healthier water systems.



➤➤➤ SOIL HEALTH

Native plants have deep root systems that help improve soil structure and help reduce erosion. They also enhance the soil's ability to retain water in times of drought.



WHO ARE SOME OF OUR POLLINATORS?

- **Honey Bees & other native bee species.**
- **Monarchs and other butterflies**
- **Hummingbirds**
- **Humans**

➤➤➤ LOWER MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Native plants are generally well adapted to local environmental conditions, making them more resilient and requiring less maintenance over time. Once established, native gardens often require less watering, fertilizing, and overall upkeep compared to traditional gardens.

»»» CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Native plants have adapted to local climate conditions over time and often exhibit greater resilience to extreme weather events, including droughts and heatwaves. By incorporating native species into your garden, you can contribute to climate change adaptation efforts and promote ecosystem resilience.

»»» EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Native gardens provide excellent educational resources for schools, community groups, and individuals interested in learning about local ecology, wildlife, and sustainable gardening practices. They can serve as living laboratories for hands-on learning and environmental awareness.

»»» SENSE OF PLACE

Native gardens can be visually appealing and provide a sense of place by showcasing the natural beauty and diversity of the region. They can also connect people to their local ecosystems and foster a greater appreciation for native flora and fauna.

POPULAR PENNSYLVANIA NATIVE PLANTS THAT YOU CAN FIND AT PEEC

- COLUMBINE
- BUTTERFLY WEED
- WILD WOOD ASTER
- BLEEDING HEART
- JOE-PYE WEED
- GRAYFEATHER
- PHLOX
- BLACK EYE SUSAN
- CULVER ROOT
- LITTLE BLUESTEM
- IRONWEED
- BUTTONBUSH
- GERANIUM