

Pollinator Garden Pilot Project



Pulaski Conservation District
Pulaski County, Arkansas

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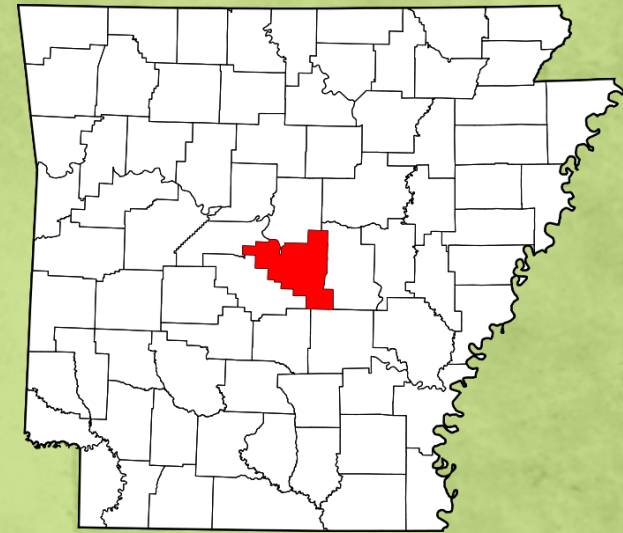
Pulaski Conservation District Background

- District Organized in 1946
- Most Populous Arkansas County (392,664 per 2015 Estimate)
- 5-Member Volunteer Board
- 1 Full-Time Office Manager; 1 Part-Time Urban Conservationist
- Annual Funding:

\$10,000.00 from State Legislature

\$15,000.00 from County Quorum Court

Fundraising: Pecan Sales, Plat Book Sales, Water Well Registration Fees



Project Goals



Serve as Pilot Project for the District

- Establish District's Ability to Follow-Through with Larger Projects
- Feasibility of Creating Local Urban Pollinator Habitat
- Demonstrating Schools' Ability and Commitment to Participate

First Steps



Select Two Schools

- Conducted County-Wide School Outreach Program
- Identified Two Schools with Existing On-Site Programs and Keen Interest
- Conducted Meetings with Principals and Interested Teachers

Develop Proposal



- Develop an “Identity” and “Goals” for Each Garden
- Develop Draft Budgets for Each Garden
- Write NRCS Proposal and Meet with NRCS Partnership Coordinator

Final Funding



- State Conservationist's Discretionary Funds; No Competition Required
- FY 16 \$11,000 Cooperative Agreement; \$5000 per School; \$1000 Indirect
- Funds for Bed Installation Materials, Plants, and Educational Materials

District Responsibilities



- Design Gardens
- Identify Appropriate Sources for Materials and Plants
- Manage Fund Distribution to Schools and Obtain NRCS Reimbursement
- Provide Technical Assistance, Advice To Schools, Labor for Garden Installation
- Prepare and Submit All Reports Required Under the NRCS Cooperative Agreement

School Responsibilities



- Develop Support Within the School and Community (Generate “Buzz”)
- Provide Labor for Garden Installation (Organize Volunteers)
- Purchase Materials and Supplies (With Agreement Funds)
- Develop Curriculum and Integrate Gardens into School’s Educational Goals
- Maintain Gardens

What Did We Learn?

- Principals and teachers are very busy
 - District took on more responsibilities as the project progressed
- Both schools had a burdensome process for receiving and disbursing funds
 - District needs to keep funds in-house to make purchases instead of transferring funds to the schools
- Projects were time-consuming but “doable”
 - Sources for native plant research are available and comprehensive
 - Sources for purchase of native plants were available

Native Plant Research Sources

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org
 - Database Searchable by State
 - Identifies Native Plants and Growth Requirements with photos
 - Identifies Pollinator Value; Highlights High Value for Native Bees
- National Audubon Society Native Plant Database www.audubon.org
 - Database Searchable by Zip Code
 - Plant selections geared to birds but most also have pollinator value
 - Gives a list with general information and photos
- National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder <http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder>
 - Database Searchable by Zip Code
 - Plant Selection Geared to Butterflies and Moths
 - Identifies the number of butterfly and moth species using the plant as a host for caterpillars

Possible Funding Sources

- Lowes/International Paper/National Geographic Outdoor Classroom Grant <http://toolboxforeducation.com>
- Home Depot <http://corporate.homedepot.com> (Also contact your local store's community outreach coordinator)
- Project Learning Tree Green Works Grant www.pltUS.org/apply-for-greenworks-environmental-education-grant
- USEPA Environmental Education Grants www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants
- US Fish & Wildlife Service www.fws.gov/grants
- National Garden Clubs www.gardenclub.org
- Scott's Gro1000 grant www.scottsmiraclegro.com
- Association for Butterflies Butterfly Mini-grant www.afbeducation.org
- Nature Hills Nursery Green Awards www.naturehills.com/green-america-awards
- Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program www.wildones.org/seeds-for-education
- Jeffers Foundation www.jeffersfoundation.org

Possible Funding Sources Cont'd

- Charlotte Martin Foundation www.charlottesmartin.org
- National Education Association Green Across America Grant Program www.nea.org
- Captain Planet Foundation www.captainplanetfoundation.org
- National Gardening Association <https://www.kidsgardening.org/garden-grants>

These are just a few. More options out there.

Suggested search terms: "pollinator garden grants"

"outdoor classroom grants"

"environmental education grants"

"school garden grants"

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