

Welcome to the Wildflower Meadow Garden at Old Settler's Park

Our Wildflower Meadow Garden was planted in 2019 after a year (2018) in which the garden ground was covered by cardboard and mulch that destroyed the existing lawn without the use of herbicides.

What you see in 2020 is a garden still in its infancy, with plants continuing to extend their root systems deeper into the earth. These deep root systems will ultimately be able to sustain the plants through mid-summer dry periods without the need of periodic watering. The plants themselves are beginning to spread and new young plants are starting their own lives from seeds that dropped in the fall/winter of 2019/20. The garden is far from maturity, but well worth a visit to observe it in this early stage. Plus see the community of birds, animals, bees and other pollinators including butterflies enjoying this new habitat.

The variety of plants in the garden were selected based on each plant's specific bloom time within a time range from early summer into fall, as this is the time of the year when Old Settler's Park attracts the most human visitors. Since deer also roam the park periodically, plants were selected with attention to deer resistance.

What is a Meadow Garden?

A wildflower meadow is a complex, interactive plant community, not just a collection of individuals. The site and the plants themselves, over a period of time, will naturally sort themselves out. The species best adapted to the site will be the ones that thrive after the first few years. A meadow garden is an entity that will in time become part of the world of Old Settler's and its surrounding area.

Tell me about the plants.

The plants selected are all **native species** adapted to Michigan's extremes of temperature. Local insects and fauna will be drawn to these native plants for food and protection plus much needed pollinating of the flowers for future seed development.

Below is a partial list of the plants and flowers including information about where to plant them and when they bloom. Additional listings and a map of the garden will be added soon.

We encourage you to consider incorporating a meadow garden into your own outside space. Additionally, consider native species whenever you add trees, shrubs and flowering perennials to your yard.

Check out our links for further information about *growing local*:

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Michigan-Native-Garden-Design-for-the-Birds.pdf>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant_facts/local_info/index

<https://www.wildflowersmich.org/>

<https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/pollinator-planting/pollinator-gardens/>

<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/grow-these-native-plants-so-your-backyard-birds-can-feast>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/could-you-please-tell-me-what-native-plants-i-can-plant-on-the-drain-field>

<http://plantitwild.net/>

<http://www.savingbirds.org/hints.html>

The Wildflower Meadow Garden at Old Settler's Park is a collaboration between the Leelanau County Park and Recreation Commission, Community Supporters, and the Glen Lake Garden Club.

Many thanks to the Midwest Invasive Species Network for providing the detailed plant information and photos. www.HabitatMatters.org

For more information contact Glen Lake Garden Club through our Facebook page.