

# POLLINATOR GARDENS

## 2017 - 2019 President's Project The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. (TGCI)

*"What one may not be able to do alone, many have done together"*  
— Chief Charles Dawes - Ottawa Tribe.



**2017-2019 TGCI STATE PROJECT:** For her presidential project, Sue Fuhrman is promoting the creation of pollinator gardens in our communities. This project aligns with NGC's 'Plant America' program to support the formation of pollinator-friendly landscapes ([gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)).

**RATIONALE:** Over the past several decades, there has been a significant loss of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, and bats, from the environment. Since many food crops and plants depend on pollinators, their decline is alarming. Plants not only feed us, but beautify our world, supply oxygen, stabilize the soil, assist in cleaning air and water, and support wildlife (*Pollinator Power - NGC publication*). As gardeners, we can help revive and sustain the health of these crucial pollinators.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Garden Clubs affiliated with The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. (TGCI) may apply for funds to establish pollinator gardens in public or semi-public spaces. A total of \$2400 has been dedicated to this project and a club can apply for up to \$250 per project.

**PROJECT SIZE:** Pollinator gardens can range from small to large, including containers, garden plots, pathway plantings, landscaping, and/or meadows. Any size garden can help contribute to the health and well-being of our pollinators.

**LOCATION:** Pollinator gardens should have public or semi-public visibility. Plantings around schools, municipal buildings, town parking lots, entries to subdivisions, churches, etc. - pollinators welcome them all! Your club could even collaborate with other garden clubs, schools, and/or civic organizations to create a pollinator garden.

**CRITERIA:** Because pollinators and plants have co-evolved to sustain one another, native plants should be emphasized. Ideally, your garden will include a range of plants that will meet early to late season needs. Pesticides should be eliminated, and plans must be in place to maintain your garden.

**TIMING:** Projects are to be completed, or substantially underway, by April 2019. Apply soon!

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** The application is available on the website at [gardenclubofindiana.org](http://gardenclubofindiana.org) under 'Forms'. Upon completion of your garden, a brief final report (no more than one page), including before and after photos as well as copies of any publicity, is required.

**RESOURCES:** The websites of the following organizations contain useful information about establishing and maintaining a pollinator garden: National Garden Clubs, Inc., Xerxes Society, Monarch Watch, Pollinator Partnership.

*"As good stewards of the Earth, we must step up our efforts to conserve and protect the pollinators in our own little slice of the world and focus on educating and motivating others to assist in the effort."*  
— National Garden Clubs, Inc.