

Worcester Native Plant Initiative



<https://worcesternativeplantinitiative.godaddysites.com/>



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“Bee Imagine-Native”





HISTORY

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- November 2021
- Shared interest in climate change action and biodiversity restoration
- All 7 members had personal experience with native plants
- Began by organizing and creating community
- First program was in February 2022,
- In Spring 2022, visibility and planting projects begin
- Held several programs in 2022, currently 130 on mailing list, almost 700 members on Facebook
- Time is right, people are ready!

MISSION





The Worcester Native Plant Initiative is a community based volunteer organization focused on getting more native plants into the Worcester landscape, advocating for more green policies, and educating the public on the benefits and necessity of native plants for climate change mitigation. With the help of our tireless volunteers, we have partnered with many local churches, Webster Square Business Association, City of Worcester, Jeremiah's Inn, Worcester Garden Club, Regional Environmental Council, Broad Meadow Brook, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Clark University and others to get closer to our vision of Worcester as a restored landscape, a healthy place for all creatures.

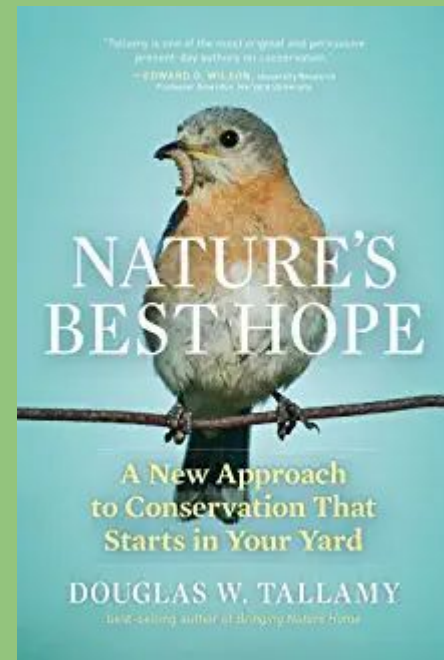
Our Ideas are broadly derived from the work of Dr. Douglas Tallamy.



Doug Tallamy and Homegrown National Park

www.homegrownnationalpark.org

- **Shrink the lawn**
- **Stop use of fossil fuel powered yard tools**
- **Remove invasive species**
- **Plant keystone genera**
- **Be generous with your plantings**
- **Reduce your nighttime light pollution**
- **Network with neighbors**
- **Build a conservation hardscape**
- **Create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees**
- **Stop use of pesticides and fertilizers**
- **Pass the Word!**



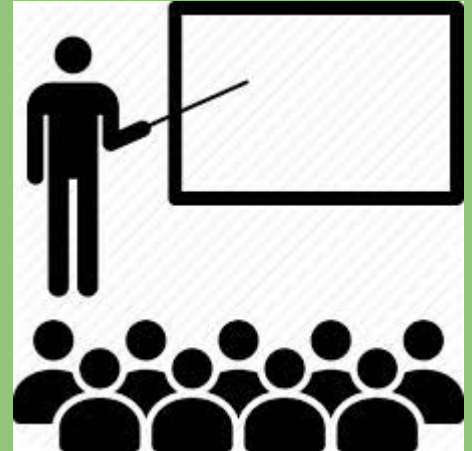


PROJECTS

Projects: Education

- **Winter Sow (times 5!)**
- **Planting workshop in Webster Square with REC and Nathaniel Wheeler Trust**
- **Rain garden workshop in collaboration with Worcester Garden Club and Broad Meadow Brook (May and June 2023)**
- **Bi-weekly articles or educational videos posted on facebook group**
- **Hometown Habitat movie in collaboration with REC and Broad Meadow Brook**
- **Extreme Heat Community Resilience Study (in collaboration with Northeastern University and YMCA of Worcester)**
- **Seed gathering, cleaning, and packaging**
- **Arbor Day Festival Tabling**
- **Butterfly Festival at Broad Meadow Brook Tabling**
- **REC Spring Plant sale Tabling**
- **Garden tours (2 last August, 2 scheduled for August 2023)**
- **No Mow may sign contest (February/March 2023)**

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WINTER SOWING



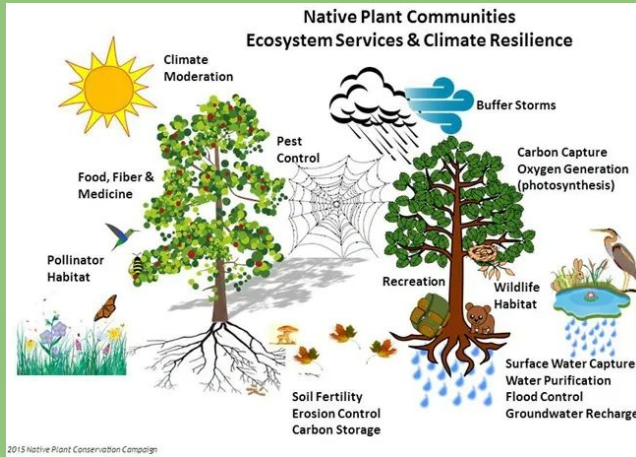
TABLE FUN!





EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

COMING SOON:
NO MOW MAY





GARDEN TOURS

SEED CLEANING AND PACKAGING



HOMETOWN HABITAT SCREENING:

(in collaboration with Broad Meadow Brook and REC)



“Award winning director, **Catherine Zimmerman**, and film crew traveled across the country to visit Hometown Habitat heroes, who are reversing detrimental impacts on the land and in the water of major U.S. watersheds, one garden at a time. The stories they traveled to tell touch on all aspects of the benefits of native plants and brings to light a sense of community that makes conservation landscaping possible.”



WNPI held two showings at Broad Meadow Brook and reached 80 people.
The important message is getting out into the community!

Northeastern University Extreme Heat Study



CONCERNED ABOUT EXTREME TEMPERATURES?

- Seeking Worcester residents to participate in a community resilience study
- \$40 compensation for taking part in a 2-hour community workshop

Part of a study to learn about how you and your community deal with extreme temperature events and figure out the types of research and actions that can support your community's efforts to build resilience.

Projects: Planting

- **Webster Square:** in collaboration with Webster Square Business Association, Jeremiah's Inn, Rec, Nathaniel Wheeler Trust, over 300 volunteer labor hours: Includes 4 medians and 4 collections of planters. To be expanded in 2023 to include 11 more planters!
- **City of Worcester Spring Beautification Grants 2022** (times 3): Lake View School Park, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Unitarian Universalist Worcester church.
- **Colony Retirement Home:** In collaboration with REC and Northeastern University
- **Hadwen Arboretum:** in collaboration with Clark University (Spring 2023)
- **Coal Mine Brook:** in collaboration with Worcester Garden Club (Spring 2023)
- **Shore Park** (Spring 2023)
- **Webster Square expansion** (Spring 2023)
- **Proposed 7 Hills project** (Goddard Memorial Drive) 2023

WEBSTER SQUARE ISLANDS AND PLANTERS



In collaboration with REC. Adding more natives to Webster Square!





Mill and Park Container



Turns out, planting projects also include dumping LOTS of waste soil!



WEBSTER SQUARE ON
MANY DIFFERENT DAYS!



UUCW EXPANSION



COLONY RETIREMENT HOME, GROVE STREET PLANTING



A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN LADY FERN
FARM, WNPI, REC, AND
NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY



LAKE VIEW ELEMENTARY PARK PLANTING



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE ST. JOHN TEMPLE STREET



Worcester Green Plan and WNPI Collaboration

- **Desire for native plants to be part of on-going planning for city projects**
- **WNPI be made aware of any projects where native plants could be utilized**
- **Partner to educate city employees to understand the role of native plants in climate change mitigation/biodiversity restoration**
- **Normalize native landscapes**
- **Funding**

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1079048142881378>

***Thanks for watching and
listening.***

Time for your questions!

