

# Native landscaping at



# The Welcoming Place

Mennonite Central Committee

## Why is native landscaping important?

- ◇ Native plants support a wider variety of insects, mammals and birds.
- ◇ Native plants are better adapted to environmental conditions than non-natives.
- ◇ Their deep roots increase water and soil retention.



## What's happening at the Welcoming Place?

In 2017, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) started an initiative at the Welcoming Place in Akron, PA, to remove invasive plants and add pollinator gardens and deep-rooted natives to the bioswale. In 2021, MCC began the transition to ecological landscaping for the entire campus with the goal of 70% native species. The Welcoming Place has pollinator gardens, two micro meadows and the large bioswale, which improves water management. In addition to being visually appealing, these biomes help to restore the ecosystems around them.



*Native plants grow in the bioswale to reduce flooding.*



*Two native meadows on campus increase biodiversity and provide habitats for many species of insects.*



## In your own backyard

- ◇ Planting native species is a great way to improve the ecosystems around you. Native species provide habitat and food for many native insects, birds and mammals.



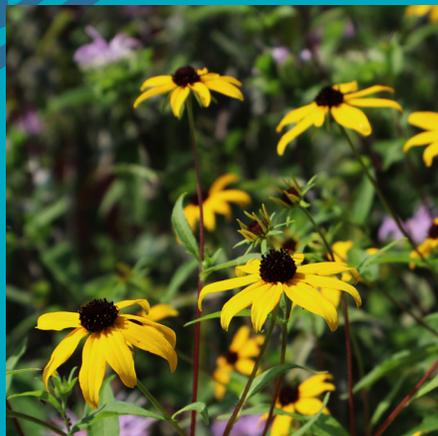
# Can you spot these native species on campus?



**Swamp Milkweed**



**Scarlet Bee Balm**



**Black-Eyed Susan**



**Big Bluestem Grass**



**Eastern Tiger Swallowtail**

## MCC cares for creation



*Clean energy engineer Tariro Cynthia Mutsindikwa from MCC's partner SCORE Against Poverty works to promote women's empowerment and clean energy solutions for climate change in Mwenzezi District, Zimbabwe. (MCC photo/Meghan Mast)*

Locally and globally, MCC and our partners work to support people in adapting to the challenges of climate change.

To learn more about MCC's work and how you can support communities around the world, visit [ClimateActionForPeace.com](https://ClimateActionForPeace.com).

Want to get involved with MCC's sustainable landscaping project? Visit [mcc.org/events](https://mcc.org/events) for upcoming events relating to this MCC project and others.



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