

Pollinator Plot Maintenance Plan

Keep Route 66 Beautiful

This guide will help you plant and care for your butterfly garden, so it grows strong and healthy for many years to come.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful will provide access to the following:

- ⇒ Native plants and flowers that provide food for our pollinators
- ⇒ Natural mulch like wood chips, pine straw, or bark—no dyed materials.
- ⇒ A Pollinator Plot sign made of untreated wood or metal

Planting Instructions:

- ⇒ **Dig a Big Enough Hole** - Make the hole as deep as the root ball, but 2–3 times wider than the root ball's top.
- ⇒ **No Fertilizer at Planting** - Use the soil you dug out to fill the hole. Wait to fertilize until the plants are established
- ⇒ **Fill in Carefully**
 - Fill in the soil gently and water to settle the soil.
 - Don't stomp on it—this can hurt the roots.
- ⇒ **Mulch the Base**
 - Add 1-2 inches of mulch around the plants.
 - Keep the mulch away from the base so air can get in.
- ⇒ **Water**
 - Water right after planting to soak the root ball.
 - Keep watering regularly—see watering plan below.

Watering Plan:

- ⇒ Always check the soil under the mulch before watering. If it feels damp 2 inches down, skip watering that time.
- ⇒ Water slowly so it soaks into the ground.
- ⇒ Water plants regularly until they are well established.
 - Keep in mind that more water may be needed during hot, dry spells or if the plants appear to be drooping.
 - Once established, native plants typically do not need additional water.

Ongoing Maintenance:

Mulch

- ⇒ Use mulch to prevent weed growth and retain moisture.
- ⇒ Natural mulch like wood chips, pine straw, or bark—no dyed materials.
- ⇒ Regularly pull weeds and grass from the mulch.
- ⇒ Refill mulch as needed.

Pruning

- ⇒ In late fall, clear out any blackened stems and foliage of annual flowers to prevent diseases and insect eggs from taking hold over the winter.
- ⇒ Cut back dry stems of perennials to soil level after frost to neaten the garden and remove pest eggs and disease spores that may linger.

Fertilizing

- ⇒ Don't use fertilizer with weed killer or strong herbicides near the garden.

Protection

- ⇒ Keep mowers and trimmers away from plants to avoid damage.
- ⇒ Watch for vandalism or animals chewing leaves.

Pest Check

- ⇒ Check plants regularly for bugs or disease.
- ⇒ Ask a native plant expert for help if needed.

Success Goal

- ⇒ Increase availability of appropriate food for Oklahoma's native pollinators.
- ⇒ Build community engagement and pride.

Signatures

Please gather signatures from 1-7 volunteers who commit to nurturing this garden.

| Volunteer Name (Printed) | Volunteer Signature |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| 7. | |
| | |