

Community partnerships create a new and larger community pollinator garden

AT A GLANCE

A newly installed pollinator garden in Nampa includes an exquisitely designed space, pollinator plants and education for the public.

The Situation

In early 2024 the Canyon County Idaho Master Gardeners ran into challenges with the West Park Pollinator Garden (WPPG) in Nampa. This small garden area, 800 ft square, established in 2008 was comprised of painted wooden garden boxes, overgrown plant material and continued pressure from weeds. Passersby would often thank the City of Nampa Parks and Recreation staff and master gardeners for this small pollinator-focused garden area as they grappled to maintain this space. For the past 17 years the Canyon County Idaho Master Gardeners have been tasked with volunteering to co-maintain the WPPG, in cooperation and collaboration with the City of Nampa. The master gardeners and Extension educator contacted the City of Nampa Parks and Recreation City Forester concerning the appeal and future of the WPPG, looking for partnerships and collaborative opportunities to enhance the community park, pollinator habitat and public education in southern Idaho.

Our Response

During meetings it was suggested and agreed upon to completely remove the old WPPG and build an entirely new dedicated pollinator garden adjacent to the old WPPG, removing a large area of turfgrass. University



Pollinator garden planting day for the WPPG in Nampa, ID.
Photo by Alissa Votroubek (Franz Witte).

of Idaho Extension Canyon County and City of Nampa reached out to Cutting Edge Landscape for landscape designs for this new space. Designs were donated in kind to the project with consideration to plant selection, pollinator/bee habitat, bloom time, color and ADA accessibility for the public. The City of Nampa partnered with the Boy Scouts of America and The Azek Company for an Eagle Scout Project to build and install the pergola at the entrance of the pollinator garden. The Azek Company donated materials to build three additional benches within the garden's walking path. Franz Witte Nursery graciously sought out, acquired and donated at-cost 270 plus pollinator specific plants to the WPPG. Edwards Greenhouse & Flowershop provided a \$100 gift certificate and 60 plus plants to the WPPG. Master gardeners provided

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another 20 plus propagated pollinator plants to the garden.

The City of Nampa began demolition of the old space in the fall of 2024, construction of the new space shortly followed and included: an ADA compliant asphalt walking path, 8 plus yards of new soil, grading of the garden space and a new retaining wall around the pollinator garden. The City of Nampa also invested in the community garden with plant fertilizer, mulch and a new drip irrigation system. Most importantly this newer space is comprised of ~5,000 ft square, more than six times the size of the old pollinator garden. Plants were selected by City of Nampa, Cutting Edge Landscape and Canyon County's master gardeners. Canyon County Idaho Master Gardeners, City of Nampa Parks & Recreation staff and Franz Witte Nursery installed the garden in the spring of 2025 with more than 350 pollinator plants, focused on providing native habitat, host plants and providing nectar resources for Idaho pollinator species. Mulch was applied to most of the garden to prevent weed pressure, with a dedicated space for bee nesting habitat.

Program Outcomes

City of Nampa Parks & Recreation and Canyon County Idaho Master Gardeners had several goals for updating and expanding the West Park Pollinator Garden. This collaborative community project resulted in significant impacts in three distinct areas.

Increased community partnerships and networking.

- City of Nampa Parks & Recreation
- Franz Witte Nursery
- Boy Scouts of America (Eagle Scout project)
- Treasure Valley Canopy Network
- The Azek Company

- Cutting Edge Landscape
- Edwards Greenhouse & Flowershop

Increased pollinator stewardship.

- Host plants for Idaho pollinator species
- Increase in nectar resources
- Dedicated ground-nesting native bee habitat

Public accessibility improvements.

- ADA-compliant asphalt walking path
- New permanent benches for visitor engagement
- New permanent pergola for aesthetics and shade

The Future

Canyon County's Idaho Master Gardeners and City of Nampa Parks & Recreation department will install educational signage for the public concerning pollinators, as well as seek future opportunities for installing more pollinator habitat patches throughout the community, helping to sustain and enhance Idaho's pollinator species and community spaces.



Canyon County Idaho Master Gardeners, City of Nampa Parks & Recreation and Franz Witte planting day. Photo by: Brad Stokes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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