City of Evanston
Civic Center Habitat Garden

The Civic Center Habitat Garden is designed to provide food and shelter for native birds and pollinators. It's part of the City of Evanston's commitment to expanding natural habitat on public lands.

All of these plants are native to this region. That means they are adapted to local conditions and don't need artificial fertilizers or pesticides—and they provide food and shelter that's just right for the butterflies, bees, and birds that evolved along with them. Some are sources of nectar and pollen, others of berries and seeds. Caterpillars attracted to the oak tree provide food for birds during spring migration.

The Civic Center Habitat Garden is intended as a source of ideas and inspiration. For your own garden, choose plants that are likeliest to thrive in the soil and light conditions at your site.

TREES & SHRUBS	Common name	Wildlife value
Quercus macrocarpa	BUR OAK	Preferred by local migrant songbirds
Carpinus caroliniana	AMERICAN HORNBEAM	Birds eat buds, catkins, nutlets
Crataegus crus-galli	COCKSPUR HAWTHORN	Fruit, dense cover for nesting
Staphylea trifolia	BLADDERNUT	Nectar, pollen
Physocarpus opulifolius	NINEBARK	Nectar, pollen
Aronia melanocarpa	BLACK CHOKEBERRY	Fruit
Rosa carolina	CAROLINA ROSE	Blooms, fruit
Diervilla lonicera	DWARF HONEYSUCKLE	Tubular flowers attract hummingbirds

FLOWERS	Common name
SPRING	
Aquilegia canadensis	WILD COLUMBINE
Arisaema triphyllum	JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT
Baptisia alba var. macrophylla (Baptisia leucantha)	WHITE WILD INDIGO
Dodecatheon meadia	SHOOTING STAR
Geranium maculatum	WILD GERANIUM
Geum triflorum	PRAIRIE SMOKE
Maianthemum stellatum (Smilacina stellata)	STARRY FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL
Mertensia virginica	VIRGINIA BLUEBELL
Polemonium reptans	JACOB'S LADDER
Viola pedatifida	PRAIRIE VIOLET
EARLY SUMMER	
Allium canadense	WILD ONION
Anemone cylindrica	THIMBLEWEED
Ceanothus americanus	NEW JERSEY TEA

Coreopsis palmata	PRAIRIE COREOPSIS
Heuchera richardsonii	PRAIRIE ALUM ROOT
Penstemon digitalis	BEARD TONGUE
Phlox divaricata	WILD BLUE PHLOX
Phlox pilosa ssp. fulgida	PRAIRIE PHLOX
Polygonatum biflorum (commutatum)	SOLOMON'S SEAL
Thalictrum dasycarpum	MEADOWRUE
Tradescantia ohiensis	SPIDERWORT
Zizia aurea	GOLDEN ALEXANDER
MIDSUMMER	
Allium cernuum	NODDING WILD ONION
Amorpha canescens	LEAD PLANT
Asclepias exaltata	POKE MILKWEED
Asclepias verticillata	WHORLED MILKWEED
Dalea purpurea (Petalostemum purpureum)	PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER
Drymocallis arguta (Potentilla arguta)	PRAIRIE CINQUEFOIL
Echinacea pallida	PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER
Eryngium yuccifolium	RATTLESNAKE MASTER
Liatris pycnostachya	PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR
Lilium michiganense (Lilium superbum)	TURK'S CAP LILY
Parthenium integrifolium	WILD QUININE
Veronicastrum virginicum	CULVER'S ROOT
LATE SUMMER	
Aralia racemosa	SPIKENARD
Chelone glabra	TURTLEHEAD
Gentiana andrewsii	BOTTLE GENTIAN
Helianthus occidentalis	WESTERN SUNFLOWER
Lobelia siphilitica	GREAT BLUE LOBELIA
Oligoneuron album (Aster ptarmicoides)	WHITE ASTER
Solidago flexicaulis	BROAD-LEAVED GOLDENROD
Symphyotrichum laeve (Aster laevis)	SMOOTH BLUE ASTER

FERNS	**Common name**
Dryopteris marginalis	MARGINAL SHIELD FERN
Polystichum acrostichoides	CHRISTMAS FERN

GRASSES & SEDGES	Common name
Andropogon gerardii	BIG BLUESTEM GRASS
Bromus pubescens	WOODLAND BROME
Carex brevior	PLAINS OVAL SEDGE
Carex gracillima	PURPLE-SHEATHED GRACEFUL SEDGE
Carex muskingumensis	SWAMP OVAL SEDGE
Carex pensylvanica	COMMON OAK SEDGE
Carex rosea	CURLY-STYLED WOOD SEDGE
Carex sparganioides	LOOSE-HEADED BRACTED SEDGE
Carex sprengelii	LONG-BEAKED SEDGE
Carex vulpinoidea	BROWN FOX SEDGE
Eragrostis spectabilis	PURPLE LOVE GRASS
Panicum virgatum	SWITCH GRASS
Schizachyrium scoparium (Andropogon scoparius)	LITTLE BLUESTEM GRASS
Sporobolus heterolepis	PRAIRIE DROPSEED

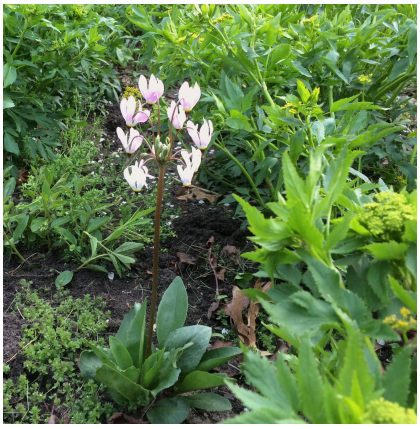
Plants come from several sources, including Possibility Place, Midwest Groundcovers, Prairie Nursery, Cardno Native Plant Nursery, and Pizzo & Associates. Their websites and catalogs are useful references.

The Civic Center Habitat Garden is located at 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201. For information or to volunteer, visit evanstonhabitat.org or contact evanstonhabitat@gmail.org.

Here are a few of the flowers you might see in the Civic Center Habitat Garden during the late spring and summer.

WILD BLUE PHLOX
Phlox divaricata

VIRGINIA BLUEBELL
Mertensia virginica



SHOOTING STAR
Dodecatheon meadia

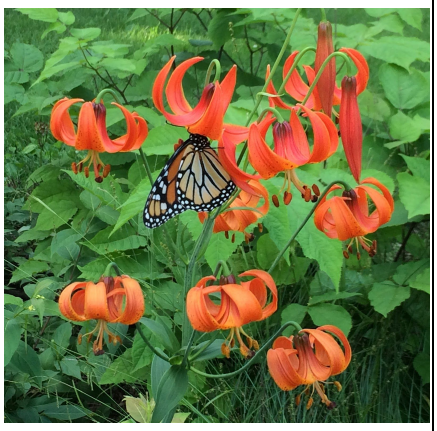
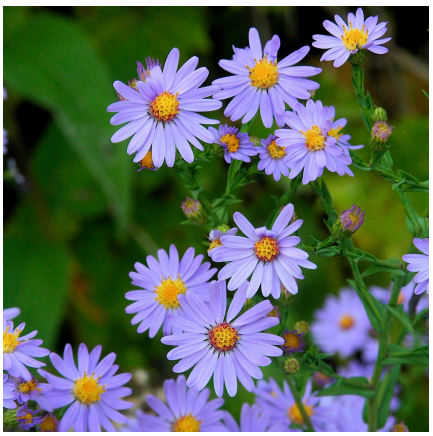
 BEARD TONGUE Penstemon digitalis	 PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR Liatris pycnostachya	 WILD QUININE Parthenium integrifolium
 PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER Echinacea pallida	 TURK'S CAP LILY Lilium michiganense	 PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER Dalea purpurea
 GREAT BLUE LOBELIA Lobelia siphilitica	 LITTLE BLUESTEM GRASS Schizachyrium scoparium	 SMOOTH BLUE ASTER Symphyotrichum laeve

Photo credits
Aster, Wild Quinine: Dan Mullen
Liatris: Joshua Mayer
Lobelia: Agnieszka Kwiecień, Wikimedia Commons
Purple prairie clover, Little bluestem: National Park Service
Other photos: Wendy Pollock

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