

A Partial List of Native Plant Gardens and Natural Areas in West Michigan



*Pollinator and Plant Connection Workshop 08/12/2022 presented by Carolyn Miller
This list compiled 8/2/2022*

| Name | Garden (G) or Natural Area (N) | Location | Details |
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| Aman Park | N | 0-1859 Lake Michigan Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 | Aman Park has woodland trails with a wide variety of spring ephemerals. This Wild Ones River City program highlights the Park and its ecology. |
| Blandford Nature Center | N | 1715 Hillburn Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 | |
| Calvin University Ecosystem Preserve and Native Gardens | G,N | 1750 East Beltline Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 | The Venema Plaza and Gardens, established in 2018, is located in front of the Bunker Interpretive Center and features over 200 species of natives. There are also trails through 100 acres of mature deciduous forest and wetlands. |
| Carl Creek Crossing Preserve | N | 6230 Grand River Dr. NE, Ada, MI 49301 | the banks of Carl Creek. The open hardwood forest has beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers in April and May and wonderful fall leaf colors. |
| East Grand Rapids - Reed's Lake Trail | G | East side of Reed's Lake Trail beginning at the corner of Reed's Lake Blvd. and Lakeside Drive. | This is a large planting of native perennials along the Reed's Lake Trail. Mid to late summer is the best time to see black-eyed susans, Echinacea, Monarda (bee balm) and many other perennials flowering. |
| Hagar Park | N | 8212 28th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49428 | hardwood forest and spectacular spring ephemeral wildflowers in April and May. |
| Hemlock Crossings | G,N | 8115 West Olive Road, West Olive, MI 49468 | Nature center with native plant gardens near entrance. Hiking trails and kayak/canoe launch through 239 acres of woods and wetlands. |
| Holland Rain Gardens-City Hall | G | Holland City Hall, 270 S. River Avenue, Holland, MI 49423 | Rain gardens using native plants and some cultivars of natives are being installed near parking lots to manage stormwater. |

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| Holland Rain Gardens-Kollan Park | G | Kollan Park, j240 Kollen Park, Drive, Holland MI 49423 | Rain gardens using native plants and some cultivars of natives are being installed near parking lots to manage stormwater. |
| Hudsonville Nature Center | N | 2700 New Holland Street, Hudsonville, MI 49426 | This is a 76 acre nature preserve featuring woodlands, prairies, and wetlands with hiking trails, lookouts and picnic tables. Craig Elston, the Park Naturalist, leads nature walks throughout the year highlighting plants and animals in the preserve. |
| Kent/MSU Extension Grand Ideas Garden | G | 775 Ball Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 | This is an educational display garden with most of the plants labeled. There is a pollinator garden that has both natives and non-natives. Some of the plants are cultivars instead of true natives, but it is still a good example of how to use natives in a garden. |
| Land Conservancy of West Michigan Preserves | N | Various locations throughout west Michigan | The Land Conservancy of West Michigan works to <i>keep nature nearby</i> and help people protect, enjoy, and care for natural land in West Michigan. Five preserves in Kent County highlight unique ecosystems and are listed below. More details and a downloadable wildflower guide are on the website. |
| Brower Lake Nature Preserve | N | 8748 Je-Ne-Be Dr., Rockford, MI 49341 | Overlooking Brower Lake near Rockford, this preserve protects rare bog and oak barrens ecosystems. |
| Lamberton Lake Fen Preserve | N | 3118 Plaza Drive NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 | This preserve protects a high-quality prairie fen, a type of wetland that is very rare in West Michigan. There is a .2 mile trail along a berm that provides a view of Lamberton Creek and the wetlands on either side of the trail. The fen itself is closed to the public due to its sensitivity of this unique ecosystem. |
| Maas Preserve | N | 10450 Summit Avenue, Rockford, MI 49341 | This preserve has a .5 mile trail through a remnant oak-pine barrens ecosystem. This unique savanna community supports the endangered Karner blue butterfly. It is a popular stop-off point for users of the White Pine Trail, particularly in May and June when the purple lupine is in full bloom. |
| Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve | N | 10471 Six Mile Road, Rockford, MI 49341 | A 1.8 mile trail through oak-hickory and beech-maple forests, hardwood swamps and vernal pools, sphagnum bogs and tallgrass prairies. |

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| The Highlands | N | 2715 Leonard St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 | A collaboration between the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and Blandford Nature Center to transform a former golf course into a healthy and thriving urban natural area. There are 2.6 miles of walking trails through 121 acres of woods and wetlands. |
| Millenium Park | G, N | 1415 Maynard Avenue SW, Walker, MI 49534-7022 | An Ottawa County Park With 1,400 acres of rolling terrain and six miles of frontage on the Grand River. There are numerous trails and a planted prairie called the "Meadows" near the Grant Pavillion. |
| Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association Gardens-Heritage Village | G | Heritage Village on the campus of Montcalm Community College in Sidney Michigan. | A mixed garden of natives and non-natives, a good example of how to integrate native plants into a home garden. |
| Montcalm Area Master Gardener Association Gardens | G | Montcalm Community College | 3 acre education pollinator garden and bird habitat to be planted in fall 2022. Collaborative effort between West MI Conservation Network, Montcalm Conservation District, Montcalm Pheasants Forever, Montcalm Community College and Montcalm Area Intermediate School District. |
| Roselle Park Native Plant Garden | G, N | 1010 Grand River Drive NE, Ada, MI 49301 | Wild Ones River City member, Amy Heilman, planned the garden around the Roselle Park multi-purpose building. Wild Ones volunteers installed the garden in June 2016. Ada Park staff and Wild Ones volunteers provide regular maintenance. There are also paved trails through wetlands and floodplains along the Grand River. |
| White Pine Trail | G | near the Rogue River in downtown Rockford just north of the bandshell | This is a small native plant garden. |
| Wild Ones River City Native Plant Education Garden | G | 920 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 | Established 2021 by Wild Ones River City with over 80 native plants species and educational signage. Wild Ones River City holds volunteer work days 1-2 times a month to do garden maintenance. |

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| Wittenbach Wege Center - Agriscience and Environmental Education | N | 11715 Vergennes St. Lowell, MI 49331 | An outdoor learning center nestled amongst 140 acres of lush forests, rolling prairies, abundant wetlands and open fields with over 5 miles of trails. |
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