

# Welcome to the St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium

In Brightside's Demonstration Garden

Special thanks to our sponsors:



brightside  
ST. LOUIS



# Green Living Festival

Free pass - today until 5pm!  
Pick yours up at the registration table before you  
leave.



MISSOURI  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN

# PARTNER SHOWCASE PRESENTATION AND “ASK THE EXPERTS” TABLES



St. Louis  
Native  
Plant  
Swap!



# Community Conservation at the Missouri Department of Conservation





A vibrant photograph of several monarch butterflies with their characteristic orange and black wings, perched on a cluster of small purple flowers with yellow centers. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural garden setting. A semi-transparent circular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.

## Missouri Department of Conservation Mission

- ▶ To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state;
- ▶ To facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

# Community Conservation

## What is it?



**CONNECTS PEOPLE  
WITH NATURE**

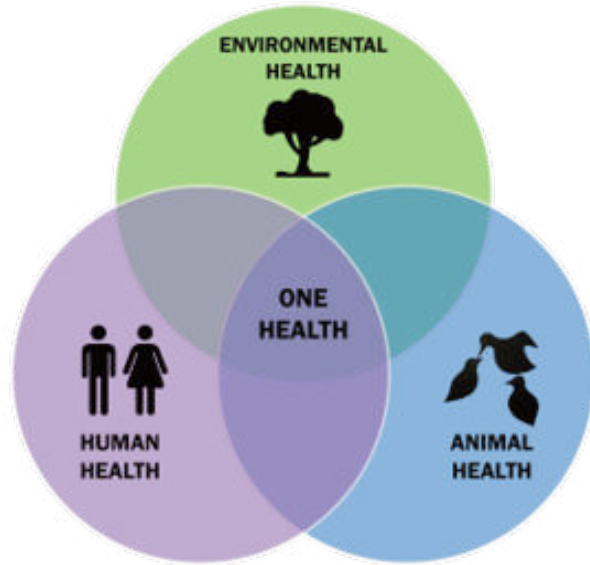


**BENEFITS PEOPLE**



**BENEFITS NATURE**

# What is One Health?



- ▶ Environmental health and human health are deeply connected
- ▶ When exposed to nature, our communities improve
  - ▶ Cleaner air and water
  - ▶ Cooler environment
  - ▶ Decrease in crime
  - ▶ Increase in life satisfaction
  - ▶ Encourages healthy lifestyle
  - ▶ Enriches appreciation for nature





## MDC Partnership Opportunities

- ▶ Community Conservation Funding Assistance
  - ▶ Including Community Forestry Cost-Share
- ▶ Community Fishing Lakes
  - ▶ Benton Park, Lafayette Square, Carondelet, Forest Park
- ▶ Nature Education Opportunities
- ▶ Discover Nature Schools Curriculum & Teacher Training







# Collaborating to Manage Vacancy

- ▶ STL Vacancy Collaborative - Small Grants for Greening Vacant Lots
  - ▶ Resources for community groups to revitalize w/ native plants
- ▶ Green City Coalition (GCC)
  - ▶ Transforming lots into community greenspaces

# Green School Yards Pilot Program at Froebel Elementary

- ▶ Many St. Louis-area schoolyards are covered in crumbling asphalt and other impervious surfaces
- ▶ Green School Yards
  - ▶ “Green, or living, schoolyards provide many benefits to children, communities, and the environment”



# COME SEE US SOON



The Howard Wood Urban Outreach Office

*We are in the  
neighborhood and ready  
to serve you*

- ▶ 4640 Shenandoah Avenue,  
St. Louis, MO 63110 located  
in the Brightside St. Louis  
building
- ▶ Office hours:
  - ▶ Tuesday - Friday  
8am - 5pm



# Thank You

Aisha Muhammad

[Aisha.Muhammad@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Aisha.Muhammad@mdc.mo.gov)

314-301-1504 x4214







# City of St. Louis Nature Steward Program

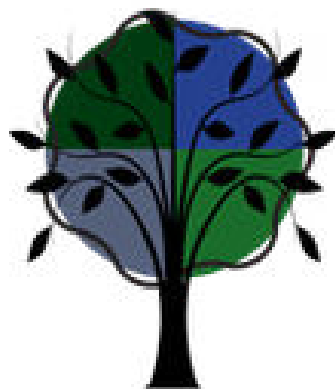


# Nature Stewards – Who and what are we?

Elizabeth Dasenbrock – Program Coordinator/Nature Steward

James (Jimmy) Moore – Nature Steward Assistant





# GREEN CITY COALITION

engage.create.grow.sustain.



project  
clear

wastewater + stormwater



SLDC





O'Fallon Park May 2024





O'Fallon Park May 2024





O'Fallon Park September 2023





O'Fallon Park January 2024





River des Peres May 2024





River des Peres May 2024





River des Peres May 2024





Tilles Park September 2023





Tilles Park February 2024





Tilles Park February 2024





Tilles Park April 2024





Tilles Park May 2024





Carondelet Park May 2024



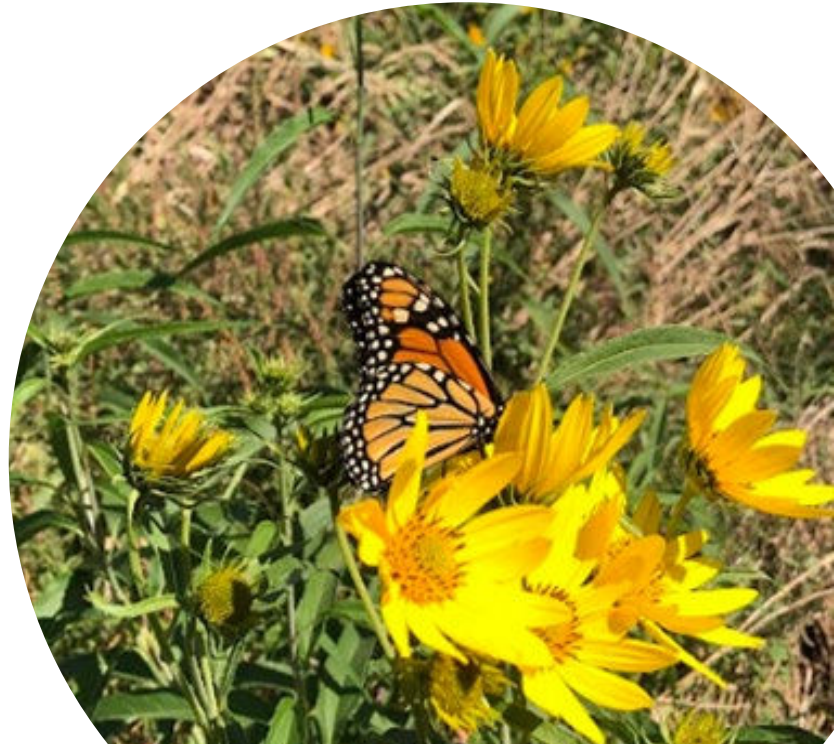


Carondelet Park May 2024



# Thanks for listening!

Contact: [DasenbrockE@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:DasenbrockE@stlouis-mo.gov)



# Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

## *Planting Trees and Enriching Communities*



Billy Haag  
Forestry Manager

Jake Roeckle  
Nursery Manager

Ellen Sulser  
Engagement/Volunteer Manager

Meridith McAvoy Perkins  
Executive Director

Rebecca Hankins  
Partnership Manager





# Mission:

Forest Releaf of Missouri enriches communities by growing and planting trees through the power of people and partnerships.

# Vision:

Grow a more resilient tree canopy across Missouri's communities that supports healthy people, healthy habitats, and a healthy planet.



Values: Equity   Fun   Responsiveness   Collaboration   Quality   Diversity





We Grow Trees





We Plant Trees





We Care for Trees





We Engage People





We Activate Others





# Tree Planting & Stewardship

CommuniTree  
Priority ReLeaf  
Treesilience  
Canopy Crew

Volunteering  
TreeKeepers  
Forest Keepers  
Community Events  
Summer Internship



# Engagement Opportunities





# Healthy People Healthy Places

We cannot protect something  
we do not love, we cannot  
love what we do not know,  
and we cannot know what we  
do not see. Or hear. Or sense.

Richard Louv



Meridith McAvoy Perkins  
[mperkins@moreleaf.org](mailto:mperkins@moreleaf.org)





*St. Louis*

Connecting people  
and native plants  
for a healthy planet

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)





# Wild Ones

## **Mission Statement:**

Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education,  
advocacy and collaborative action

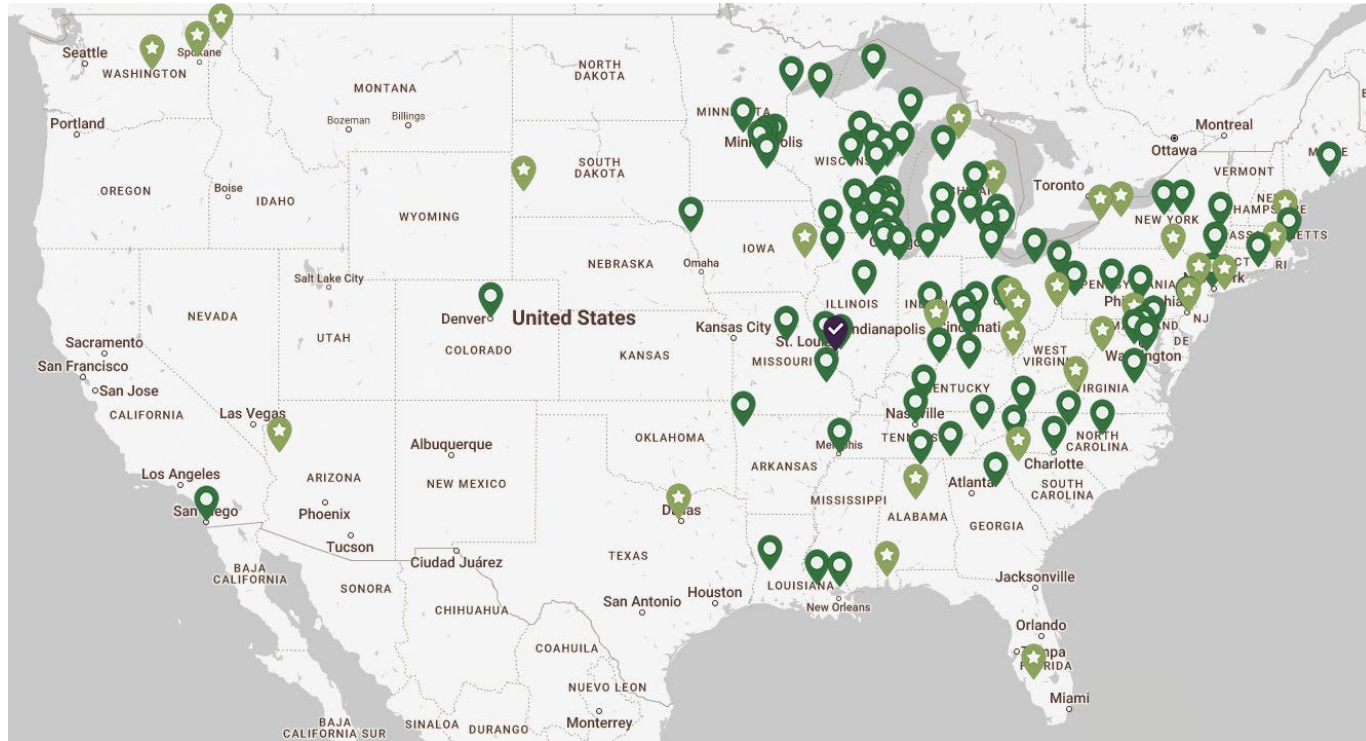
## **Vision:**

Native plants and natural landscapes  
thriving in every  
community

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)



# 91 Chapters and 29 Seedlings in 34 states!



## 10,000+ members



# St. Louis Region

1998: Chapter founded by Scott Woodbury

2023: 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Sister chapters that we helped create

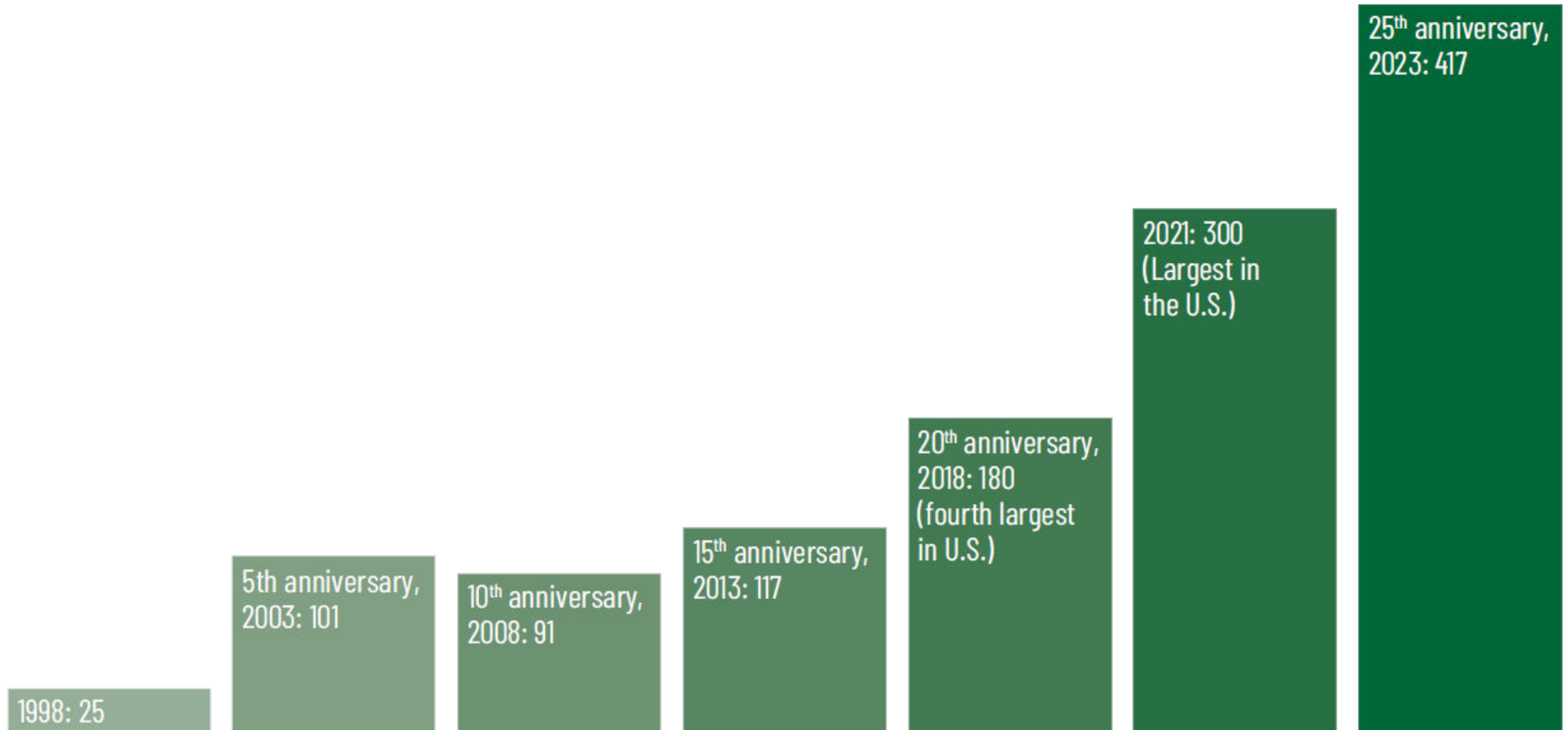
- St. Charles Area Chapter
- Southwest Illinois Chapter

We are the **LARGEST** chapter in the country

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)



# See Us Grow!



St. Louis Chapter membership by year



# Leading the Way

“There are groups doing good things in California, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Connecticut – but St. Louis is leading the way!

You have so many groups and programs – some doing this work longer than me – using native plants to restore ecosystem function to human-dominated landscapes.

That’s what it’s all about, and you guys are leaders!”

– Doug Tallamy

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)



# Circle of Support

## Native Plant Gardening Circle of Support



We created a rack card that identifies and is used by the four regional organizations

- Bring Conservation Home
- Shaw Nature Reserve
- Wild Ones St. Louis Chapter
- GrowNative!

to connect homeowners with key resources in the region

The card is given out at events and members share it with friends and neighbors



# Communications and Knowledge Sharing

- Website
- Newsletter – 1300 subscribers
- Facebook page – 2700 followers
- Winter Speakers Series and YouTube videos and also
- National Wild Ones Website
- Partner websites

Zoom webinars have made sharing information easy!

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)



# Garden Gatherings

- Outdoors April through October
- Public and private spaces
- Plant and seed sharing

What can you see at a Garden Gathering?

- See different styles of landscaping
- See different levels of maturity of the landscape
- See what plants look like when they “grow up”

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)





# Availability of Native Plants

- Native plant sales in the spring and fall
- Retailers in the area that sell native plants
- St. Louis Native Plant Swap FB group
- Plant Sharing at our Garden Gatherings
- Our November Seed Exchange



# Spreading the Word

- Speakers Bureau
- Collaborative Events
  - Partners for Native Landscaping Events
  - St. Louis Native Plant Garden Tour
- Mentor Program
- Grants Program
- Plant Tags





# Wild Ones and YOU!

- Yearly membership dues (\$42) support national programming and advocacy
- Specify the St. Louis Chapter to receive invitations to our Garden Gatherings
- Make connections with fellow native plant enthusiasts who understand your gardening challenges and excitement
- Subscribe to our newsletter via our website

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)





*St. Louis*



*Connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet*

[stlwildones.org](http://stlwildones.org)





# BRING CONSERVATION HOME™

St. Louis Audubon Society

St. Louis Audubon's Bring Conservation Home program is a landscape habitat restoration advice and certification service that provides on-site consultations and specific written recommendations about native and invasive plants, water conservation and wildlife stewardship practices.

[www.bringconservationhome.org](http://www.bringconservationhome.org)

# Consultation Options & Certification



## Gateway Consultation

- ✓ For those relatively new to landscaping for wildlife, we provide a basic overview of what is already present and the potential benefits of making choices to improve the natural environment. We will help identify a basic project to start with or provide recommendations for a specific problem area.
- ✓ This option is also appropriate for those managing an existing BCH Certified Landscape and who need guidance on maintaining it.
- ✓ Up to 1 hour, on-site visit with a trained Habitat Advisor.
- ✓ \$50 suggested fee, or pay what you can. (Free for residents in Tier 1 areas)
- ✓ Basic, on-site report with findings and recommendations for improvement projects.
- ✓ Connections to resources.
- ✓ Discount on a follow-up visit for a Full Consultation or a free Certification Assessment.



## Full Consultation

- ✓ For those committed to transforming their landscape, we provide an in-depth exploration of what is already present, potential solutions for problem areas, and other potential enhancements and next steps for wildlife habitat certification.
- ✓ Up to 2 hours (typically 90 minutes), on-site visit with a trained Habitat Advisor.
- ✓ \$80 suggested fee, or pay what you can. (Free for residents in Tier 1 areas)
- ✓ Includes a detailed written site-visit report sent by email after the site visit.
- ✓ Connections to resources.



## Wildlife Habitat Certification Assessment

- ✓ For those who believe their landscape meets the criteria for certification.
- ✓ Please check [the certification criteria here](#) before choosing this option.
- ✓ Up to 2 hours (typically 90 minutes), on-site visit with a trained Habitat Advisor.
- ✓ \$80 suggested fee, or pay what you can. (Free for residents in Tier 1 areas)
- ✓ Qualifying landscapes will receive a certificate and a yard sign with the certification level.
- ✓ Connections to resources.



# Certification Levels

Wildlife Habitat Certification is available for Residential or Institutional Landscapes. Below is an overview of criteria for Residential Certification.

[Request Site Visit](#)

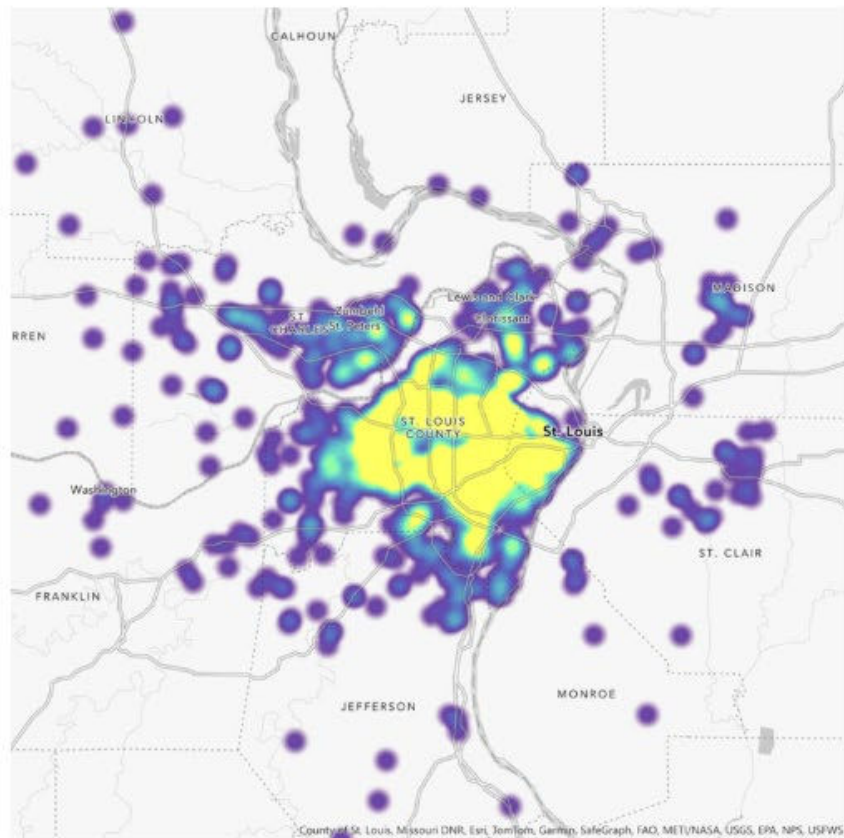
[More Info About Certification](#)



**FREE sign is available upon certification.**

*The same sign can be used for all three levels of certification.*

Silver	Gold	Platinum
Clear some invasive plants	Clear most invasive plants	Clear all invasive plants
5% naturescaping	15% naturescaping	50% naturescaping
2 of 4 canopy levels	3 of 4 canopy levels	All 4 canopy levels
3 wildlife stewardship elements	4 wildlife stewardship elements	6 wildlife stewardship elements
15 native plant species	25 native plant species	50 native plant species
1 stormwater management element	2 stormwater management elements	3 stormwater management elements
	1 education/volunteerism element	2 education/volunteerism element



## Service Area

Our service area is limited to 50 miles by road from the center of St. Louis City. Most of our guidance and resource connections are geared specifically toward landscapes in the St. Louis area under 5 acres. Please [contact us](#) if you have questions about eligibility.

## Fee Structure

Our generous program sponsors help to keep our services affordable to all. There is no required fee for site visits. Instead, there is a suggested fee for each type of visit to help cover operational costs. After the site visit, you will be invited to contribute an amount that you feel is affordable and reasonable. For active members of St. Louis Audubon Society or St. Louis Wild Ones, the suggested fee is 50% off.

### Suggested Fees for Residential Site Visits:

- Gateway Consultation – \$50
- Full Consultation – \$80
- Certification Assessment – \$80
- For small community institutions such as schools, nonprofits, or religious communities, the suggested fee for a Consultation or Certification Assessment is \$100





# BRING CONSERVATION HOME™

St. Louis Audubon Society

## Request a Site Visit

Sign Up Now

Free Tier 1 Site Visit Info

Service Area & Fee Structure

**Note:** The current waitlist for site visits is 8+ months. Since 2021, we have seen a 76% increase in the rate of site visit requests received. While we are delighted to see this influx of interest in naturescaping, we appreciate the patience of all those waiting for a site visit. In the meantime, we are doing everything we can to increase our capacity to meet this growing demand.

*If you'd like to get started right away, you might find some helpful ideas, resources or guidance on the [STL Naturescaping Info Hub](#).*

[www.bringconservationhome.org](http://www.bringconservationhome.org)

Thank you to Holly Records and the St. Louis Master Gardeners  
for hosting an “Ask the Experts” table  
&  
Missouri Master Naturalists for volunteering their plant  
knowledge at the Native Plant Sale Table!



**St. Louis**  
**Master**  
**Gardener**



**Extension**  
*University of Missouri*



# WORKSHOPS



## PLANT HEALTH CARE

Evan Parker

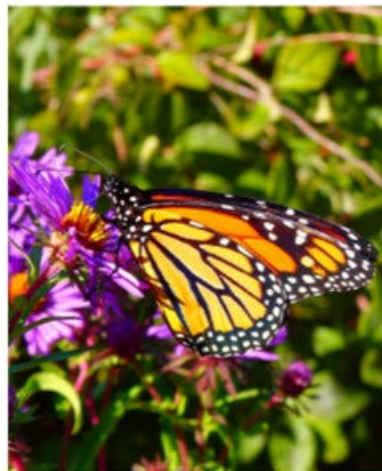
Missouri  
Department of  
Conservation



## THE DIRT ON SOILS

Mark Grueber

Missouri  
Department of  
Conservation



## LESS WORK, MORE NATURE

Sean Gunsten

Brightside  
Demonstration  
Garden



## NATIVES CULTIVARS & VARIETIES OH MY!

Angie Weber

Crestwood  
Beautification  
Committee

# Thank you for attending the St. Louis Urban Gardening Symposium!

In Brightside's Demonstration Garden

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ST. LOUIS

