



NCEMGVA 2022 Inspire Connect Empower Project Grant Recipient

Sampson County: Submitted by S. Williams and A. Butler

Project Title: Informal Pollinator Friendly Garden

Category: Startup **Funding:** \$500

Description: The fifteen active Master Gardener volunteers in Sampson County are developing a demonstration garden featuring pollinator-friendly native plants. We are preparing the site now, and will plant seeds and plants in the fall of 2022. Plants will be in bloom by spring 2023. This 1200 square foot garden will be planted on Cooperative Extension property, where it will be highly visible to the public as they visit the Extension building, the Animal Shelter, the livestock sale arena or one of our Master Gardener plant sales. In contrast to our existing formal pollinator garden, the new garden will feature an informal design. NC native selections of seeds, plants and woody ornamentals will be planted in broad swaths and left to grow and mature naturally. In addition to our existing bee hotel, we plan to provide additional habitat and watering features to attract solitary bees and other insects. Master Gardeners will maintain the garden during our bi-monthly workdays; ongoing tasks will include weed management as well as relocation, replacement, and addition of plants.

This project is important to landowners, civic leaders, youth, farmers and others as it demonstrates that even a small plot of land and minimal investment in seeds and/or plants will result in an increase in native pollinators.