

# Native Plant Ordinances:

Leading by example in maintaining healthy habitats  
and clean waterways



**Bill Silverstein**

Member, Nether Providence Township Environmental Advisory Committee,  
Nether Providence Township Planning Commission

# Introduction



- Nether Providence Township Native Plants Resolution
- Adoption Procedure
- Implementation
- NPT Projects
- Stakeholders



# NPT Native Plant Resolution



- Introduced via the NPT Parks Commission with input from the Shade Tree Commission
- Based on model resolution language provided by the Audubon Society
- Modified to incorporate some NPT-specific language



# NPT Native Plant Resolution



- Sets forth myriad benefits of native plantings
- Includes:
  - Recommended plant list (native species)
  - Invasive species (do not plant) list
- Planting goals/commitment for NPT-owned property
- Separate goals for NPT residents



# NPT Native Plant Resolution



- Commitment for NPT “to make every reasonable effort to ensure that **all properties owned or controlled by the Township** use a minimum of **80 percent Native Plants in new plantings**, and to move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal”
- Educate and empower NPT residents “with the goal of transitioning at least **50 percent of Township private properties** to include no less than **20 percent native plants**”



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NETHER PROVIDENCE  
TOWNSHIP IN SUPPORT OF THE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS  
NO. 2019-8**

WHEREAS, Native Plants are localized, well adapted to the local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they coevolved, and use such plants for food, cover, and rearing their young; and

WHEREAS, Native Plants, having evolved in the climate, are extremely hardy and therefore have lower maintenance and replacement costs; and

WHEREAS, increased use of Native Plants will help to create resiliency to the impacts of climate change for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Native Plants protect water quality by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion; and

WHEREAS, Nether Providence Township is already taking action to manage its stormwater and restore watershed health, including the reduction of sediment pollution in the Crum and Ridley Creeks, and complying with the NPDES MS4 permit through Minimum Control Measures; and



WHEREAS, healthy ecosystems have been shown to provide therapeutic benefits to our mental well-being and physical health; and

WHEREAS, Native Plant usage helps restore the ecological balance we have lost through development and can help maintain, or even increase, property values; and

WHEREAS, in much the same way as saving an historic home, the use of Native Plants helps to preserve our local heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township, in the County of Delaware, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that Nether Providence Township shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that all properties owned or controlled by the Township use a minimum of 80 percent Native Plants in new plantings, and to move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that replacement of preexisting, non-native plants on properties owned or controlled by the Township is required or undertaken and suitable alternative or equivalent native plants are not available, the Township may replace such non-native plants with similar, non-invasive varieties of nonnative plants;



AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nether Providence Township Environmental Advisory Council and other elected and appointed officials will educate and empower residents with the goal of transitioning at least 50 percent of Township private properties to include no less than 20 percent native plants;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners and other elected and appointed officials are urged to do everything in their power to bring Nether Providence Township closer to using a minimum of 80 percent native plants on all properties owned or controlled by the Township; and ensure that the benefits of native plants are realized by Nether Providence Township residents from all walks of life;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Nether Providence Township will avoid taking actions that could increase the use of non-native plants or delay the transition to a minimum of 80 percent native plants.

RESOLVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

**TOWNSHIP OF NETHER PROVIDENCE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Sullivan, President  
Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Cummings,  
Township Manager



## RECOMMENDED PLANT LIST

### Appendix A: Plant List

<b>Key</b>		<b>Size</b>	
1	Suitable for streets	Small	20-35'
2	Suitable for planting under utility wires	Medium	35-60'
3	Evergreen	Large	60' +
4	Tolerates poorly drained soils		
5	Tolerates dry or poor soils		
6	Tolerates partial shade		
7	Native to Pennsylvania		
8	Flowering Tree		
<b>Key</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Size</b>
1,4	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'Burgundy Beauty'	Red Maple	Large
3	<i>Abies concolor</i>	White Fir	Medium
3	<i>Abies koreana</i>	Korean Fir	Medium
3	<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>	Nordman Fir	Large
1,2,6	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Trident Maple	Medium
1,2,5,6	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple	Small
1,2,6	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple	Large
1,2,6,	<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple	Medium
2,6,	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	Small
1,4,7	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Large
1,7	<i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Green Mountain'	Sugar Maple	Large
6	<i>Acer triflorum</i>	Three Flower Maple	Small
1,2,8	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye	Small
1,8	<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Horse Chestnut	Medium



# Nether Providence Township Shade Tree Commission

## Invasive Species List- Do Not Plant

### Trees

#### Botanic Name

*Acer platanoides*

*Acer pseudoplatanus*

*Ailanthus altissima*

*Alnus glutinosa*

*Aralia elata*

*Broussonetia papyrifera*

*Elaeagnus angustifolia*

*Elaeagnus umbellatus*

*Kalopanax septemlobus*

#### Common Name

Norway Maple

Sycamore Maple

Tree-of-Heaven

European Black Alder

Jaspanese Angelica Tree

Paper Mulberry

Russian Olive

Autumn Olive

Castor Aralia



# NPT Native Plant Resolution Adoption Procedure



- Introduced by Parks Commission member (who is also an Audubon Society member)
- Discussion at Board of Commissioners meeting
  - Primary question (but short discussion) was whether there were “non-obvious” costs or burdensome obligations
- Approved unanimously by Board of Commissioners at the next meeting



# NPT Native Plant Resolution



## Implementation

Primarily Voluntary

Outreach/posting on NPT website

Informational signs at NPT rain gardens

Charge to the EAC for resident education

Shade Tree reviews of site development plans

**Leading by example with NPT projects large and small**



# NPT Projects



- Rain Gardens

- Bullens Lane Park
- Nether Providence Township Building
- Sapovits Park

... and the Helen Kate Furness Library thanks to the Audubon Society and community volunteers ...



# Bullens Lane Park Rain Garden



# Nether Providence Township Building Rain Garden



# Sapovits Park Rain Garden





# Gardening with Nature in Mind

Discover the role of native plants in maintaining clean water for people, birds, and other wildlife.

Pop-Up Garden

When: September 14 to 27, 2019

Where: H. K. Furness Free Library  
100 Providence Rd.  
Wallingford, PA



Belted Kingfisher eating a forage fish

September 17, 6:00-7:30pm

Wildlife, Water, and Wellness

Join the experts to discuss ways you can help build healthy habitats for your family, community, and wildlife.

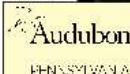
September 27, 6:00-8:00 pm

Birds, Books, and Brews

Taste local craft brews by 2SP Brewing Company and peruse books about native plants and the birds they attract at the closing celebration of the native plants garden. Raffle winners will take home one of the beautiful plants in the garden for their yards.

For more details, visit:

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



Plants by  
Redbud Native Plant Nursery

Exhibit Design by  
Fiber Tree Designs





# Other Water/Restoration/Improvement Projects – Grant Funded



DCED's Watershed Restoration and Protection Program -  
Repaired damage sluiceway to reduce the amount of  
sediment being deposited into Crum Creek.

Before



After

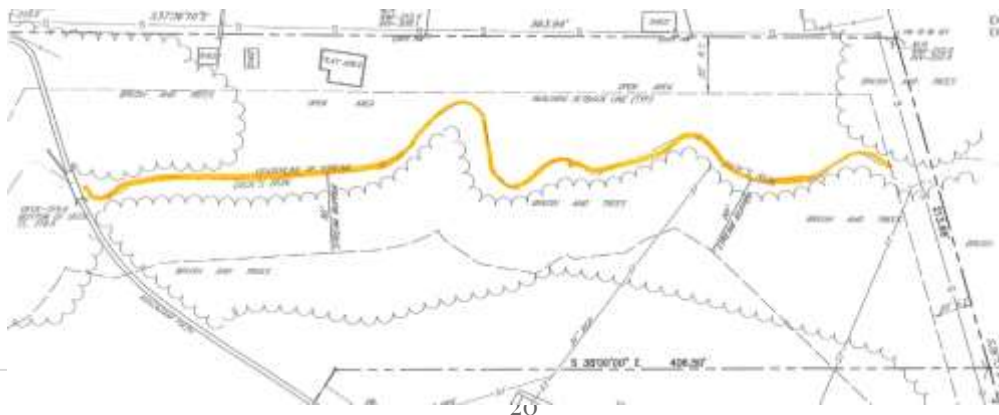


# Other Water/Restoration/Improvement Projects – Grant Funded



## Gouley Park – Dicks Run Stream Stabilization Project

- Township will use native plants to stabilize the stream and reduce the amount of sediment that is entering Crum Creek.



# Other Water/Restoration/Improvement Projects – Proposed Grant Funded Project



- Seeking funding from the state to help with the creation of a large retention basin to deal with the impacts of flooding and the subsequent damage to the stream, its banks, and water quality.



- Would include a large rain garden, and the “daylighting” of a stream that is currently contained by an inadequate culvert.



# Stakeholders



- NPT Board of Commissioners
- Township Manager and Assistant Manager
- NPT Public Works Department
- Parks Commission
- Shade Tree Commission
- Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)
- Township Residents





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# Rain Gardens

## A Clean Solution to Stormwater Pollution

To learn more about building your own rain garden, please visit us at:  
[www.crcwatersheds.org](http://www.crcwatersheds.org)  
 Chester Ridley Cram Watersheds Association

### Rain is natural. How can it be a problem?

When rain falls on roofs, roads, driveways and lawns it does not have the chance to slowly absorb into the ground, as would happen in a forest. Instead it quickly rushes towards our streams, carrying fertilizers, oils, and other pollutants with it. The spikes in stream volume increase flooding and cause streambanks to erode.

### When it rains... it drains

Our local streams flow to the Delaware River and the Delaware Bay. The health of fish, shellfish, and other wildlife is dependent on clean water.



### Rain Gardens are a Beautiful Solution

Rain gardens prevent rainwater from carrying pollutants into our streams by trapping it and allowing it to slowly soak into the ground. With flowering native plants, a rain garden will beautify your yard and attract birds and butterflies. It will also keep our streams clean for drinking water and wildlife.

*A rain garden is a weekend do-it-yourself project that the whole family will enjoy.*



This site has been funded by the Cooper's Wetland Project of Pennsylvania Urban Education Fund through a grant to the Chester-Crawford Watershed Association from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Planting a rain garden in 3 easy steps...

1

#### Pick the Right Location and Size

The best locations are in natural depressions or low lying areas where water flows naturally from a downspout, driveway, patio or sidewalk.

The rain garden must:

- Be at least 10 feet away from foundations and utilities.
- Have well-drained soils. You can adjust your soil content, but it is best to start with a site that drains well.
- Be large enough to handle the amount of water it will receive.

*A well drained rain garden will not allow mosquitoes to breed.*

at least 10 feet

downhill flow of water

2

#### Create a Design and Select Native Plants

- Choose flowers, grasses, and shrubs that are drought tolerant but can withstand wet conditions. Select sun or shade-loving plants depending on your location.
- Native plants are adapted to local conditions, easy to maintain and attract birds and butterflies.

3

#### Construct and Plant Your Garden

- Dig a 4 to 8 inch deep basin. Use the removed soil to build a berm on the downhill side of the garden.
- If needed, add compost, topsoil and dye-free mulch.
- Add your plants in the desired layout.
- Water regularly during the first year if there are long stretches without rain.

*Once established, your garden will not need watering or mowing.*



#### Native Plants That are Well Suited for This Area

