

# NATURAL GROWTH PROJECTS

The Parks and Grounds staff, along with the Envirogroup and a host of volunteers contribute efforts in keeping our parks healthy and natural.

The installation of pollinator gardens at Heritage, Lake Arlington and Centennial Parks includes many native plants such as: Marsh Blazingstar, Butterfly and Swamp Miklweed, Tickseed, Coreopsis, Blackeyed Susans, Purple and Yellow Coneflower, Mountain Mint and grasses of Side Oats Grama and Little Bluestem and many more. Monarch butterfly restoration areas have been identified with signs along the paths.



## Other Projects



In 2017, a concerted effort was made to remove the invasive Teasel plant at Lake Arlington. Several volunteer days resulted in a more healthy environment for native plants to grow. In 2019 a large native plant garden at Lake Arlington at the Wildwood path connector was established. A major effort to open up the natural area between

the bridges by removing overgrown trees, invasive plants and shrubs was completed in 2020. Staff and volunteers continue to maintain the area which promotes the native plants to flourish. A prescribed burn in the spring of 2021 and the fall of 2022 helped to clear the shore line around Lake Arlington of invasive plants and returned the soil to more healthy nutrients.

**Eagle Scouts** actively participate with the Parks and Grounds Department to achieve merit badges as a final step in their scouting experience. One such project was completed at Lake Terramere and resulted in the reestablishment of native shore line plants which provided a stronger sub base. In addition, the installment of coir logs also encouraged plants to flourish thus strengthening and building back the shore line.

