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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wild Ones Introduces New Native Garden Designs to the Gardener Guide

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, Ltd., is proud to continue offering professionally designed, native garden plans free for public use. The program, supported by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, aims to demonstrate how using native plants in landscaping can promote wildlife while being beautiful.

Native plant communities benefit the environment by:

- Providing food and habitat for pollinators & wildlife
- Reducing erosion, and conserving & purifying water
- Mitigating flooding
- Sequestering carbon
- Repairing soil
- Enhancing the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of people of all ages.

The designs were created to help gardeners of all skill sets achieve their plans within scope and budget. They allow gardeners to take an incremental approach in developing their plan, adding new areas and native plant species as time and funds permit.

The plans currently provide designs for the ecoregions of Boston, Chattanooga, Chicago, *Columbia River Basin, Denver/Front Range, *Grand Rapids, *Greensboro, *Lafayette, *Las Cruces, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, *Philadelphia, *Portland, *Princeton, St. Louis, Tallahassee, Toledo, *Tucson and *Washington, DC. Designs can be downloaded from Wild Ones' nativegardendesigns.wildones.org website. (* = just released!)



Impacts on the Capital Region

The Native Garden Design website doesn't have a design plan specific to the Capital Region. However, gardeners can look to the Boston plan for inspiration. It includes an [ecoregion](#) - geographical areas with ecosystems that are generally similar - for the Albany area. All the plant species recommended in the Boston design are native to New York, according to the [New York Flora Atlas](#). The website also includes steps to build climate-resilient landscapes regardless of ecoregion.

Each garden design includes a variety of beautiful, region-specific native plants that can be downloaded and easily printed for quick reference while selecting plants at a local nursery. Wild Ones Capital Region NY features a list of [local nurseries](#) that are great sources for obtaining native plants, or visit Wild Ones for a list of [nurseries nationwide](#). There are also several pop-up native plant sales around the Capital Region during the growing season, including the Thacher Park Spring Sale at the Overlook and the Pollinator Palooza presented by Sustainable Saratoga.

We are nature's best hope.

Wild Ones Honorary Director Doug Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*, shares that one of the big mistakes in our approach to conservation is the idea that "nature" is something set aside in preserves and parks, separated from our daily lives. He stresses that native plant gardens in our own communities are our best hope to save our environment. He asserts "we must now act collectively to put our ecosystems back together again."

Wild Ones Executive Director Jen Ainsworth explained, "It's crucial that we re-examine our approach to stewarding the spaces we own (our yards), as well as the public spaces in our communities. We need to adopt landscaping methods that are sustainable and promote the health and wellbeing of all forms of life. We hope our native garden plans inspire, encourage, and motivate individuals throughout the United States to make this important shift in their approach to landscaping. Nature is depending on the participation of all of us."

What is Wild Ones

In 1977, the first seeds were sown for Wild Ones, which today is a nationally recognized membership based non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices and preserve biodiversity through restoration and establishment of native plant communities.



In addition to providing free, region-specific, native garden design templates, Wild Ones supports the grassroots efforts of 100+ nationwide [Wild Ones](#) locations, representing more than 8,000 members in 29 states, providing resources and online learning opportunities that are free and open to the public. Joining a Wild Ones chapter can provide valuable support and camaraderie along your native landscaping journey.

Get involved with Wild Ones Capital Region NY.

In May of 2021 a core group of local citizens came together to found the Capital Region NY chapter, which was granted a charter in September of the same year. We offer free native landscape educational events, seed swaps, and information tables at public events. Please visit our website for our current events: capitalregionny.wildones.org/events-calendar/.

Wild Ones Capital Region NY depends on members and their dues, as well as [donations](#) and gifts from individuals like you, to help heal the Earth one landscape at a time. We are always looking for more volunteers as well. From leadership to just a few hours here and there we customize each volunteer opportunity to your strengths.

In addition, there are several Wild Ones chapters throughout the state, including: the Habitat Gardening Central NY chapter, Mohawk Valley chapter, and two “seedlings,” Mid-Hudson Valley and Long Island. To see a full list of Wild Ones chapters, visit: <https://wildones.org/chapters/>. If there is not a chapter near you then please consider starting a seedling and continue spreading this vital mission!

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