

This project was made possible through the generous support of an Open Space Stewardship Grant from The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), our volunteers, and the Department of Public Works.

To learn more about this project, or to volunteer with future projects, please contact us on our [Facebook page](#)

Join us at our monthly meetings held on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the municipal building to learn more about us!



Why go native in the first place? Unlike the ornamental non-native plants that can be purchased at your local nursery, or invasive weeds, native plants provide vital sustenance to our local pollinators, and help to support their populations!



You too can make a difference by choosing to "Go Native" at home! To learn more about designing a pollinator friendly landscape, and for recommendations on native alternatives, please visit The Jersey Friendly Yards website: <http://www.jerseyyards.org/>



# Native Wildflower Pollinator Meadow

At Harrington Fields



*Rudbeckia hirta*, a native wildflower of the Northeast, is one type of flower you might find in our meadow!

A collaborative project of the Washington Township Green Team and Environmental Commission, with special assistance from the Department of Public Works.



## How are plants invasive?

Plants such as Oriental Bittersweet, pictured above, can become established in a variety of different ways. They can either be planted intentionally by uninformed homeowners, can be brought in by industries using the material for packaging, or can simply hitch a ride as seeds, or spread quickly through rootstocks or runners.

Regardless of how they arrive, once established these non-native plants quickly take over the landscape and become very difficult to remove.

What's worse, is that they also outcompete our native plants, which pollinators and herbivores rely on for sustenance. This in turn leads to reduced populations of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.



## Removing invasive plants

Here at Harrington Fields, our volunteers from the Green Team, and the Environmental Commission worked to remove the invasive Russian Olive shrubs (pictured above) from the surrounding fields where they had become established.

Although they appear to be just like ordinary shrubs, and the birds enjoy their berries, these shrubs become quickly established in fields and meadows. They can soon become dense monocultures where nothing else is able to grow or thrive.

When removing invasive plants always be sure to do so before they are able to go to seed, and have a plan established for getting rid of the plant material once they are removed to limit their ability to spread further.



## Establishing a native wildflower meadow for the pollinators!

Once the undesirable invasive weeds, and shrubs were removed from the park, and the soil was amended, our volunteers seeded in over ten pounds of specially blended Northeastern Wildflower seed mix and then let nature take its course.

To learn more about the project, or to become involved with our next one, please contact us!



*Washington  
Township  
Green Team*