

## Indian Hill Meadow at Boyce Park

The Indian Hill Meadow at Boyce Park was planted in the summer of 2017 on a six-acre site that was mowed since the park was established in the late 1960s. It was the first site selected in the nine-county park system for a meadow planting. In summer 2018, a second meadow will be planted in South Park.



A collaborative project of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation and Allegheny County Parks, funding for the meadow was provided by the Allegheny County Conservation District. The recommendation to plant the meadow in Boyce Park came from the Boyce Park Ecological Assessment and Action Plan, prepared in collaboration with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The study was funded by the PNC Foundation.

### Resources

#### Allegheny County Parks Foundation

[acparksfoundation.org](http://acparksfoundation.org)

724-327-7627

[www.acparksfoundation.org/guide-creating-home-meadow](http://www.acparksfoundation.org/guide-creating-home-meadow)

#### Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County

Garden Hotline – 412-482-3476

#### Ernst Conservation Seeds

[Ernstseeds.com](http://Ernstseeds.com)

### Meadows to visit:

#### Allegheny County Parks

- **Boyce Park** – 6 acre site called Indian Hill
- **South Park** – 4.5 acre site above the Forbes Shelter near the Oliver Miller Homestead

To view mature meadows, visit:  
Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve  
Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

### Master Gardener



PennState Extension

Email: [alleghenymg@psu.edu](mailto:alleghenymg@psu.edu)

f <http://bit.ly/alleghenymg> @alleghenymg



ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
ALWAYS INSPIRING



ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
*Parks Foundation*

[www.acparksfoundation.org](http://www.acparksfoundation.org) | 724.327.7627

f Find us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER

## Creating a Home Meadow IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY



**What do you need to know about  
creating a meadow in your backyard?**

Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County  
have partnered with the Allegheny County Parks  
Foundation to create educational materials,  
tours and presentations to help.





## What is a meadow?

Meadows are a window into the beauty of the original American landscape. They have long captured the imagination of nature lovers and anyone resisting the cultural domination of the lawn. The meadow stands as an appealing cross between a wild-west prairie and the homogeneous lawn dominating our landscapes. In an age of sustainable gardening, its allure grows even stronger if we consider its ecological benefits including bird and pollinator food sources and shelter, erosion control and storm water runoff management.

A wildflower or native plant meadow is first a functional and interactive plant community teeming with and supporting life. It is also a flower garden for all to enjoy though not a “meadow in a can” to be bought off a shelf. Meadows require attention and careful planning to get established but are well worth the effort. An established meadow requires less maintenance than a turf lawn, no watering and perhaps mowing just once every year or two to prevent woody seedlings from taking root. The tall grasses and flower stalks also provide winter interest.



Photos courtesy of Ernst Conservation Seeds, Inc.

## Why do meadows matter?

In the United States, over 24 million acres of lawn surround our homes. As suburban development continues to spread into open and forested land alike, we lose more and more of our native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

By replacing a part or all of your lawn with native plants, you not only create a dynamic and beautiful landscape, you also provide critically important habitat, food and a refuge to attract a variety of wildlife.



### MEADOW-MAKING ADVICE

**You must have patience.** Making a meadow is not a quick solution. It takes 3-5 years to establish a meadow from seed.

**Poor soil means a good meadow.** Good soil means more weeds. Use no fertilizer.

**Weeds are the #1 enemy of a meadow.**

- Meadows have different rules for planting.
- Foster plants that suppress weeds.
- Planting in hotter weather suppresses weed growth.

**For step-by-step instructions, visit [www.acparksfoundation.org/guide-creating-home-meadow](http://www.acparksfoundation.org/guide-creating-home-meadow)**

## Meadow Expectations

- Once established, meadows are beautiful and require less maintenance.
- Meadows are not as neat and tidy as mowed lawns.
- Meadows, and even small plantings of native plants, provide important resting and feeding areas for birds and other pollinators.
- Meadows can be established with seed or live plants. If using live plants, landscape plugs are a common choice as they are small, cheaper than large container plants and easy to install. A combination of seed and plugs can also be used to balance costs and create faster results.

