Contact Information

www.theWPPC.org

Carol Rice  
goforsix@aol.com  
847-382-1181

Jim Keenan  
jkeenan211@gmail.com  
815-675-2562

Kris Hall  
johnnhall3@comcast.net  
847-526-7352
A Natural Garden in Your Yard

Mentoring Program
The garden as a living classroom
Application Process

Application available at thewppc.org
Submit by September 15 deadline
Purpose: To facilitate the transformation of traditional lawn and garden space to environmentally friendly native plant gardens. To share our knowledge and experience of natural gardening in the hope that we may help restore some small portion of our native prairies and woodlands.

The Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee
theWPPC.org

Program benefits:
Advice from an experienced native plant gardener who will be your mentor and assist you with site evaluation, planting selection, weed identification and telephone support.
- A choice of planting plans & list of native plant resources
- Reference materials
- A coupon for 25% off plants at our Native Plant Sale in May

This program does NOT include any physical garden labor from your mentor or advice on areas outside the scope of the program. In other words, you will be supplying the actual digging, planting, weeding and watering labor. Your mentor is a consultant only.

NOTE: Participants are not interviewed and selected until the fall of each year.

Please fill out the application below, detach and mail to: The WPPC c/o Carol Rice, 170 W. Highway 22, Barrington, IL 60010 gorforsix@aol.com
Upon review of the application in the fall, we will contact you for an interview. We must receive your application by September 15

Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
Address ___________________________________________ e-mail________________________

- Do you live in McHenry County?  Y  N
- Are you willing to dedicate 100 sq. ft. (it doesn’t all have to be in one location) to a natural garden?  Y  N  Don’t be scared, it sounds like a lot, but a 10 x 10 ft space equals 100 sq. feet, or two 5 x 10 ft. borders along a fence or yard edge, etc. This space should be an area that is currently devoted to lawn or a conventional garden.
- Are you willing to commit this space to natural gardening for at least 3 years?  Y  N
- Are you aware of any municipal or development restrictions on planting native plants/wildflowers in your area?  Y  N
- Do you have any health or physical conditions that would interfere with the work involved?  Y  N
- Do you have prior gardening experience - A lot □  Some □  None □
- Would you like to apply with a neighbor? If so, list your neighbor’s name. Neighbors working jointly will allow us to optimize our resources and will be given preference.

Neighbor: ___________________________________________

Feel free to add additional comments on the back of this application.
Interview

Learn about the program
Share your vision for your project
Discuss your site
I heard about the program at/from ________________________________________________

Talk about your prior gardening experience.
I understand that the program utilizes plants rather than seeds, to facilitate learning the plants.
When you bought your property, were its natural features part of your decision?
What inspired you to plant a natural garden?
What expectations/ hopes do you have for this garden?
What initially attracted you to this program? What benefit/s of the program appealed to you? How important is the mentoring?
What support would you expect from a mentor? What style of mentoring would you prefer?
Would you encourage neighbors to follow your example? Discuss possible ways
Do you envision expansion of variety and/or space as garden progresses?
Will you be willing to provide input to WPPC – to assist in guiding future growth of program
    by keeping a diary/journal
    • by taking photos (Before and After)
    • by attending meeting/s of the committee
Do you live close to an existing natural area?
Do you have a service agreement with a lawn care firm?
Are there any activities that regularly take place in your yard that might impact the Garden’s success?
Follow-up visits are very important to evaluate success. Will you arrange with your Mentor for opportunities to see the planting as it develops?
Would you be willing to have your yard visited by the program participants as part of the learning process?
Interviewer – Please indicate if this applicant's needs fit within the scope of our Program._________________________________________________________
Are you and a neighbor planning to apply together
Mentor Match

Mentoring style
Project type
Geographic location
Kick Off Meeting

Meet your mentor
Receive mentee resources
Meet other mentors and mentees
Planning and Consultation

Site evaluation
Develop garden plan
Select plants
Planning and Consultation
Plant Order

25% discount on first 100 plants
Price range of plants: $2.50 - $5.00
Pick up of plant order
Prior to WPPC plant sale
Periodic educational meetings
Mentor / mentee garden walk
Networking community
Yard Walks
Visits to Natural Areas
Mentoring Program Stats

In the first 6 years of the program:

Applicants who completed interview 87
(Average, 15 per year)

Mentees who completed plantings 72

Mentees who went beyond 1st year involvement at least 44*

* Becoming mentors, expanding plantings, participating in organization activities
Sense of Community
Problem Solving
Expanded Knowledge
Volunteers Help at Events
Increased Numbers at Events
Yards Become Ads for Natives
Builds Confidence in Mentoring
Increased Enthusiasm
New Friendships
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