

# News Release

## **Oakland County to distribute native plant kits to residents**

*Program introduced by Commissioner Kristen Nelson encourages sustainable landscaping, protects local wildlife*

**May 6, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – Oakland County residents will be able to expand their gardens with native plants this season through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Native Plant Initiative. Those interested in obtaining kits will be able to pick up plants at one of two June events being hosted at the Oakland County Farmers Market in Waterford or Red Oaks Water Park in Madison Heights. Residents can visit <http://bit.ly/Spr21NP> to make a commitment to environmental stewardship, request kits and choose their pickup date, time and location.

"We wanted to offer native plants to residents so they can play a first-hand part in helping to protect the environment," Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford) said. "The choices we make in our yard, whether it's a lawn or on a balcony, can make a big difference to wildlife and to our local environment."

The Board reestablished the Native Plant Initiative earlier this year, after the inaugural curbside plant distribution event in October 2020. Last fall, more than 90 plant bundles were distributed to residents from 26 of the county's cities, villages and townships. Oakland County Parks and Recreation is helping the Board administer the program.

"We won't be able to make a positive impact on the environment unless we do this together," Commissioner **Gary McGillivray** (D-Madison Heights), who also chairs the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, said. "Through education and action, we can all play a part in preserving Oakland County's natural resources."

Oakland County residents can request pre-assembled kits, each with a collection of approximately 16 assorted potted plants recommended for beginners and casual gardeners. There are multiple starter kits to choose from, based on soil condition and how much sun the garden will receive.

Pick-up time slots are available from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, June 11 at the Oakland County Farmers Market (2350 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford Twp.) or from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 12 at Red Oaks Water Park (1455 E. 13 Mile Road, Madison Heights). To make their

Environmental Steward Commitment, request plants and learn more about the initiative, residents can visit <http://bit.ly/Spr21NP>.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

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