

News Release

Oakland County to distribute native plants to residents at farmers market

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

October 12, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – Oakland County residents will be able to expand their gardens with native plants this fall through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Native Plant Scatter and Grow event. The curb-side event takes place on Friday, October 16 at the Oakland County Farmers Market, 2350 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford Township. Those interested in receiving a free native plant starter kit must make a commitment of environmental stewardship and request a free kit at bit.ly/BOCFallScatter20.

"Our goal is to empower Oakland County residents to do their part to keep our local environments thriving," Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford) said. "The use of native plants is one of the easiest ways homeowners can have a positive impact on the local pollinator populations, and I am excited about the impact this project will have on our community in growing understanding and encouraging action on the importance of sustainable landscaping."

The Board founded the Native Plants Initiative earlier this year after a recommendation by the Special Committee on Invasive Species Prevention. Nelson serves as chair of the committee, which also includes Commissioners **Gwen Markham** (D-Novi) and **Tom Kuhn** (R-Troy). The initiative was established to teach residents about the importance and benefits of native plants to our ecosystem and increase the number of native plants throughout the county.

"Participating in this event is a perfect way for home gardeners to learn more about the local environment," Markham said. "Landscaping with plants that are native to Michigan helps to provide habitat and food sources for many of our essential pollinators. Native plants are hardy because they evolved here and thrive in Michigan's changing seasons."

Oakland County residents can request up to two free pre-assembled kits, each with a collection of approximately 18 assorted potted plants recommended for beginners and casual gardeners. There are two different starter kits – full sun or rain garden native plant starter kit. To make your Environmental

Steward Commitment, request your plants and learn more about the initiative, visit
bit.ly/BOCFallScatter20.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit www.oakgov.com/boc or call 248-858-0100.

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