



NCEMGVA 2022 Inspire Connect Empower Project Grant Recipient

Caldwell County: Submitted by E. Roberts and J. Smith

Project Title: Nature's Best Hope Demonstration Garden

Category: Startup **Funding:** \$500

Description: This project will provide to our community and specifically to the 200-300 daily greenway visitors a demonstration native landscape garden. The garden will consist entirely of native plants that are endemic to the western piedmont and foothill areas. The current entry to the greenway is a 30 car parking lot with a grass border. The project will convert two mowed grass areas bordering the parking lot to Natures Hope Demonstration Gardens.

The first area is a 40 ft by 8 ft area with an information kiosk near Powell Road. This area will consist primarily of native pollinator perennials, structured to provide an attractive but multi-seasonal floral display to welcome the greenway visitors and passers-by. The perennial native pollinator bed will be backed by native shrubs and small trees, which will be selected by their ability to enhance native wildlife habitat. The second area will consist of a 70 ft by 15 ft area that visitors use to transition from the parking area to the greenway path. We will select native plant species that promote wildlife and biodiversity. Our project will enhance the visitor experience as they move from car to greenway with the development of crushed granite pathways through a native plant garden.

We will use this space to educate outdoor enthusiasts on the importance of native habitats as well as practices in developing native habitats in their home landscapes by reducing the amount of lawn and changing landscape management techniques that will attract wildlife and allow it to thrive.