

The Bee's Knees: Pollinator Gardens in Worcester County

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Overview

Urban areas often contain less biodiversity than surrounding rural areas. This problem is compounded by the fact that pollinator populations, which are positively correlated to biodiversity, are in decline. Therefore, we believe that the implementation of pollinator gardens in urban areas will benefit these areas by attracting pollinators to them.

Project Goals

- Create a plan for a pollinator garden in the Worcester, MA area
- Inform the public of this plan and the importance of pollinators

Project Timeline

Research native plants

Research pollinator-plant interactions

Research hypothetical costs of garden

Obtain additional advice from knowledgeable individuals

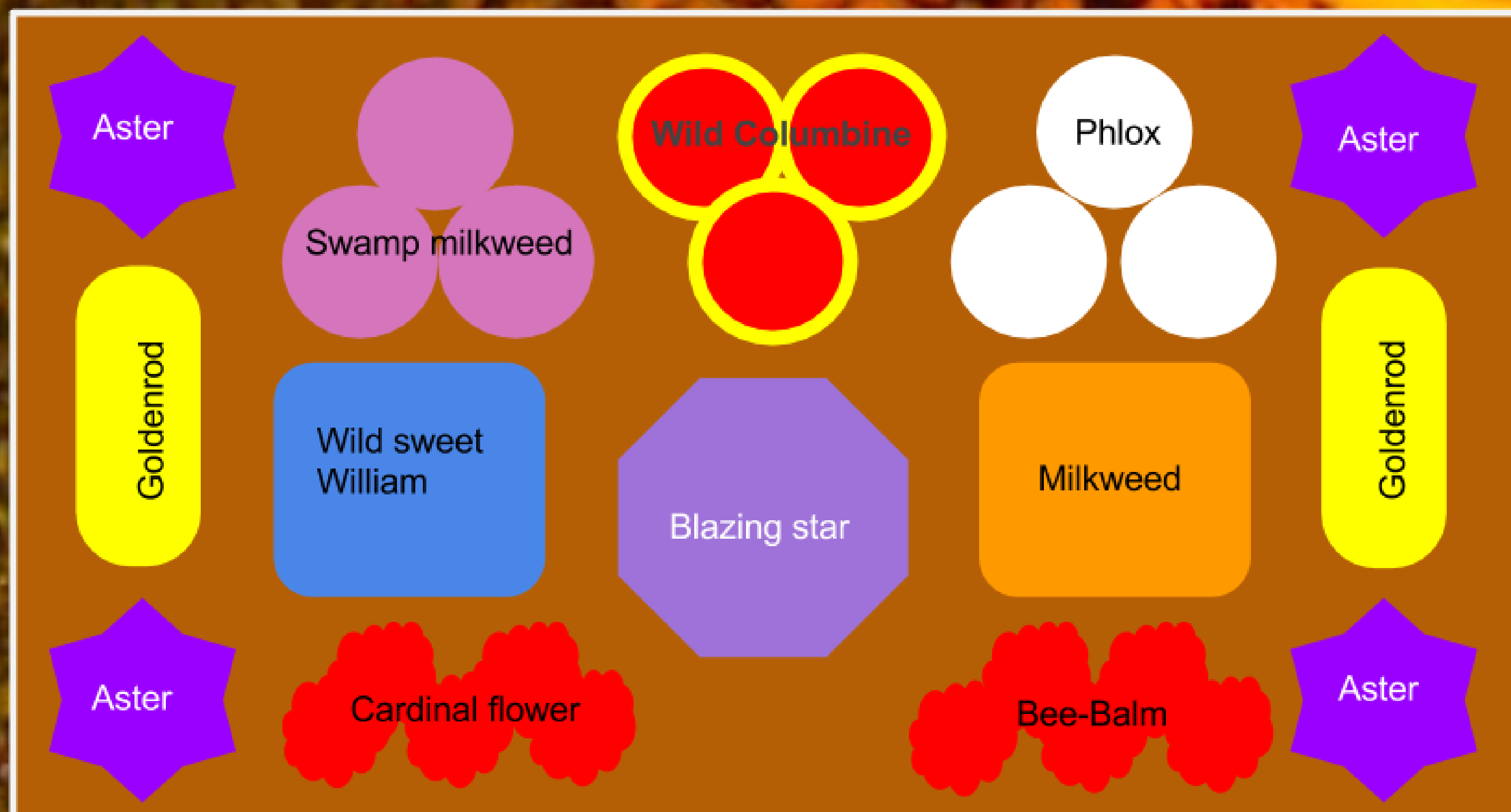
Devise optimal implementation plan

Create Brochure

"Bees pollinate over two-thirds of the world's agricultural crops"

(Hatfield, Jepsen, Mader, Hoffman Black, and Shepherd, 2012).

Example Garden Arrangement



Original Drawing

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Pollinators



Moths



Butterflies



Hummingbirds



Bees



Flies

Features of Pollinator Gardens

- A variety of **native plant species** that bloom for a majority of the year
- **Separate pollinator habitats:** Bee habitats (e.g. nest boxes) must be protected from wind and human interference

Pollinator gardens should *not* include the following:

- Pesticides
- Excessive human interference
- Non-native plant species

Plant Selection



White Phlox



New England Aster



Bee Balm



Blazing Star



Cardinal Flower



Goldenrod



Milkweed



Swamp Milkweed



Wild Sweet William



Wild Columbine

Image Credits

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