

Host an HNP Table

A project from Homegrown National Park®

What to know

Hosting a tabling event is a great way to engage new community members and educate folks about native plants. You can set up a table at local markets, festivals, planting events, etc. The goal is to connect your community to HNP and the native plant movement.

Season

Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer

For

Communities, Families

Event Duration

1+ Hour

Instructions

Step 1 | Choose the Date & Time

Consider setting your first table up at a conservation-based event. This will mean your audience is already attending. It will build your confidence to attend more events. If you are already feeling confident, aim for a festival with lots of people. Remember to always ask permission or fill out the appropriate sign-up forms prior to attending an event.

Step 2 | Gather Your Materials

Ideas of what to have at the table

- A way to sign up for the HNP Biodiversity Map (QR code or laptop/tablet)
- Something to attract folks, an interactive piece, plants, something related to HNP
- Local flyers with ecoregion and resources. Consider making them from our [Keystone Tool](#)
- HNP Brochures and handouts, Mosquito Bucket Challenge flyers, etc.
- Flyers from local native plant businesses (Check out some from the [directory](#)).
- Doug Tallamy books or similar.

- HNP signs or merch that might catch an eye. Bonus for wearing an HNP shirt!
- ♻️ Have all materials be reusable so you can use them at your next event too.
- 💡 Most festivals waive non-profit booth fees; it's always good to ask.

Step 3 | Prepare an Elevator Pitch

Things to consider:

- Is the audience already familiar with native plants?
- Is this audience already practicing conservation in some form?
- Using a common struggle to gain attention: Drought, water use, flooding, mosquitoes, etc.

Here is an example pitch you can give to someone who is completely new. Try to turn this into a conversation rather than a monologue.

"Native plants are nature's foundation. They feed the insects that feed the birds, strengthen our ecosystems, and create beautiful spaces. But most properties are bare lawns, places that don't support local wildlife.

We make it simple at Homegrown National Park: plant native, remove invasive species, and reduce lawn. We provide free educational materials, connect you with local nurseries and native plant experts in your area, and celebrate your progress on the HNP Biodiversity Map, a living record of land being restored across the US and Canada.

You don't need a big property. Any size counts, you just need a native plant to get started. The idea is to create lots of ecological corridors around the country for our wildlife to use."

🎬 **Event Day** 🎬

Step 4 | Set Up the Space

Arrange your table with the materials you have gathered. Make your table welcoming and interesting.

Step 5 | Talking to people

You may get a lot of questions, and it's okay to not have all the answers. It is better to point them in the right direction than give them false information. For generic questions about ecoregions, keystones, mosquito buckets, where to get plants, etc., you can point them to the HNP website. If they are asking about specific species, plant recommendations based on backyard conditions, or any other details you may not know, we recommend pointing them to a local organization. Your closest native plant society or [Wild Ones chapter](#) is often a great choice.

Check out the most [common questions from neighbors](#) and see how we'd respond.

Step 6 | Report Back and Help Us Improve!

Sharing your attendance numbers and event details is crucial. Your input directly helps us measure our collective impact and improve our resources. Did you do something special? We would love to see your marketing materials, photos, and hear about unique details to feature and incorporate for future events! [Contribute Your Feedback Here](#)

Keep in Mind

- Create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere for all ages and abilities.
- Encourage participation and conversation.
- Take photos (avoid people's faces unless permission has been given).
- People want something they can take home to remind them of what they learned and what steps to take next.

Materials

(Complete supply checklist)

- ☐ Tables (If not provided)
- ☐ Chairs (optional)
- ☐ [HNP flyers/brochures](#)
- ☐ Books/printed references
- ☐ A handout with some of your favorite resources: Homegrown National Park links, local native plant sellers, your closest Wild Ones chapter, state/local Native Plant Society, conservation groups, any co-hosting organizations

 Single laminated copy with a QR code or follow-up email instead of printing

Related HNP Activities

Check these activities out to include as takeaways at your tables or examples

- [Mosquito Bucket Building](#) - A great alternative to fogging.
- [Winter Sowing](#) - Send each visitor home with a native plant growing for spring. .

- [Native Plant Container Gardening](#) - Send each visitor home with a native plant to add to the HNP Biodiversity Map.

Examples

