

Native Garden Board

A project from Homegrown National Park®

What to know

A Native Garden Board is a simple, low-effort way to show your community that people nearby are already planting native, and make it easy for them to join in. Put up a board in a spot where people naturally gather and talk: a church lobby, an office break room, a library, a community center. Start with a photo of your own native garden, then add others as you find them, alongside a flyer about HNP with a QR code to get started.

It works because seeing someone you know is doing something makes it feel normal, doable, and worth trying yourself. No event, no registration, just a board that quietly starts conversations.

Season

Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

For

Communities, Teams, Schools

Event Duration

5+ Hours, Ongoing

Instructions

Step 1 | Secure a Location

Pick a spot where people already gather and have a moment to look around: a church lobby, office break room, library bulletin board, community center, coffee shop, or gym. The best spots are places people pass by and congregate regularly, not just once.

You'll likely need permission from whoever manages the space. A short, friendly ask usually works: "I'd like to put up a small board showing neighbors' native gardens, to encourage more people to plant native. Would that be okay here?"

Step 2 | Set up Your Board

Purchase a poster, cork or foam board.



Use an existing corkboard or poster board if the space already has one, or bring your own. It doesn't need to be fancy, foam board works just as well.

Start with a photo of your own native garden, patio, or container. Being in the photo yourself is a bonus, it makes the connection real in a way an empty garden photo doesn't, but a photo of your garden with your name and/or a little description works too.

If you know others at that church, workplace, or community center who are already planting native, ask if they'd like to add a photo before you put the board up. More photos help, but you don't need to wait for a crowd, one garden is a real start.

Fill out the flyer on page four with how people can join the board, your favorite native plants, and local native plant nurseries.

Step 3 | Put the Board in Place

Post the flyer we've provided next to your board along with your QR code, alongside your photos and names (and garden names or locations, if people are comfortable sharing). Leave some open space, the board should look like it's meant to grow.

Consider adding a simple title at the top of the board, like "Native Garden Board," so people can tell what they're looking at from a distance, before they get close enough to read the flyer.

Step 4 | Keep the Momentum

This is a living board, not a one-time display. New photos should get added as people plant, but someone needs to make that easy.

Pick whichever mechanism fits the space:

- One person in charge: Someone collects new photos (by text, email, or in person) and adds them to the board periodically.
- Self-serve: Leave a small envelope, folder, or pushpin section on the board where people can drop off their own printed photo directly.

Either way, having one person who checks on the board now and then keeps it from going stale or getting forgotten.

The board works best when it starts conversations, not just glances. Encourage the people whose photos are up to mention it to others: "Have you seen the garden board in the break room? That's mine, you should try it too."

Step 5 | 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 experience for all ages and abilities.
- Encourage participation and conversation around the board and what people are noticing.
- Create an easy entry point for a beginner.

Materials

(Complete supply checklist)

- ☐ Corkboard, poster board, or foam board
- ☐ Push pins or tape
- ☐ Printed photos (garden photos with names)
- ☐ Printed flyer with QR code
- ☐ Optional: small frame or border to make the board feel intentional

Related HNP Activities

- [Native Plant/Seed Library](#) - Great source for a beginner to get plants and/or seeds.
- [Native Plant Container Gardening](#) - Give participants a native plant to add to their home.
- [Tabling Event](#) - The board is a great add to a tabling event.

Examples





This is our native garden board.

There's more private land in the U.S. than in all our national parks combined. Homegrown National Park is a movement to turn some of that land, starting with yards like ours, into habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies.

These are our neighbors already planting native and experiencing the joy of bringing nature home. We can all contribute - no experience required!

How to get your picture on the board:

Some local native nurseries:

Some favorite local native plants:



Scan the QR code to learn how to get started,
and join us all on the HNP Biodiversity Map.