

Native Plants at the Veterans' Memorial Bridge

Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey Tea): A small shrub, growing up to 3 feet tall in full sun and medium to dry soil, that blooms with fragrant white flowers from late May through summer that are attractive to pollinators. The flowers are followed by berries that provide food for birds. During the American Revolution, the leaves were boiled by colonists to use as a tea substitute.

Agastache foeniculum (Anise hyssop): A perennial herb known for its licorice-scented foliage and spikes of lavender flowers that attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds throughout the summer. The plant prefers full sun, grows up to 3 feet tall, and has both culinary and ornamental uses.

Silene regia (Royal Catchfly): A perennial wildflower known for its bright red, tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators in mid to late summer. It grows 3-4 feet tall with sticky stems that trap small insects (hence the common name "catchfly") and thrives in full sun and well-drained soil.

Blephilia ciliata (Downy Wood Mint): A deer resistant perennial in the mint family, but clump-forming rather than spreading aggressively. Its whorls of pale blue to purple flowers attract pollinators from May to August. Growing to 2 feet tall, wood mint needs full sun and very well-drained soil.

Amsonia hubrichtii (Hubricht's Bluestar): A low maintenance full sun perennial known for its tall column of feathery green foliage topped by small blue flowers in the spring and its brilliant gold foliage in the autumn.

Chasmanthium latifolium (Northern Sea Oats): A native grass that can grow more than 3 feet tall with attractive, bamboo-like foliage and flat, drooping seed heads that start out green and gradually turn a coppery bronze in the fall. The seeds provide winter food for birds and the foliage is a larval host for several species of butterflies. This grass thrives in sun or shade and a variety of soils. It is excellent in naturalistic settings for supporting wildlife and stabilizing soil, but its tough, spreading root system and prolific self seeding can make it difficult to control in a more formal garden environment.