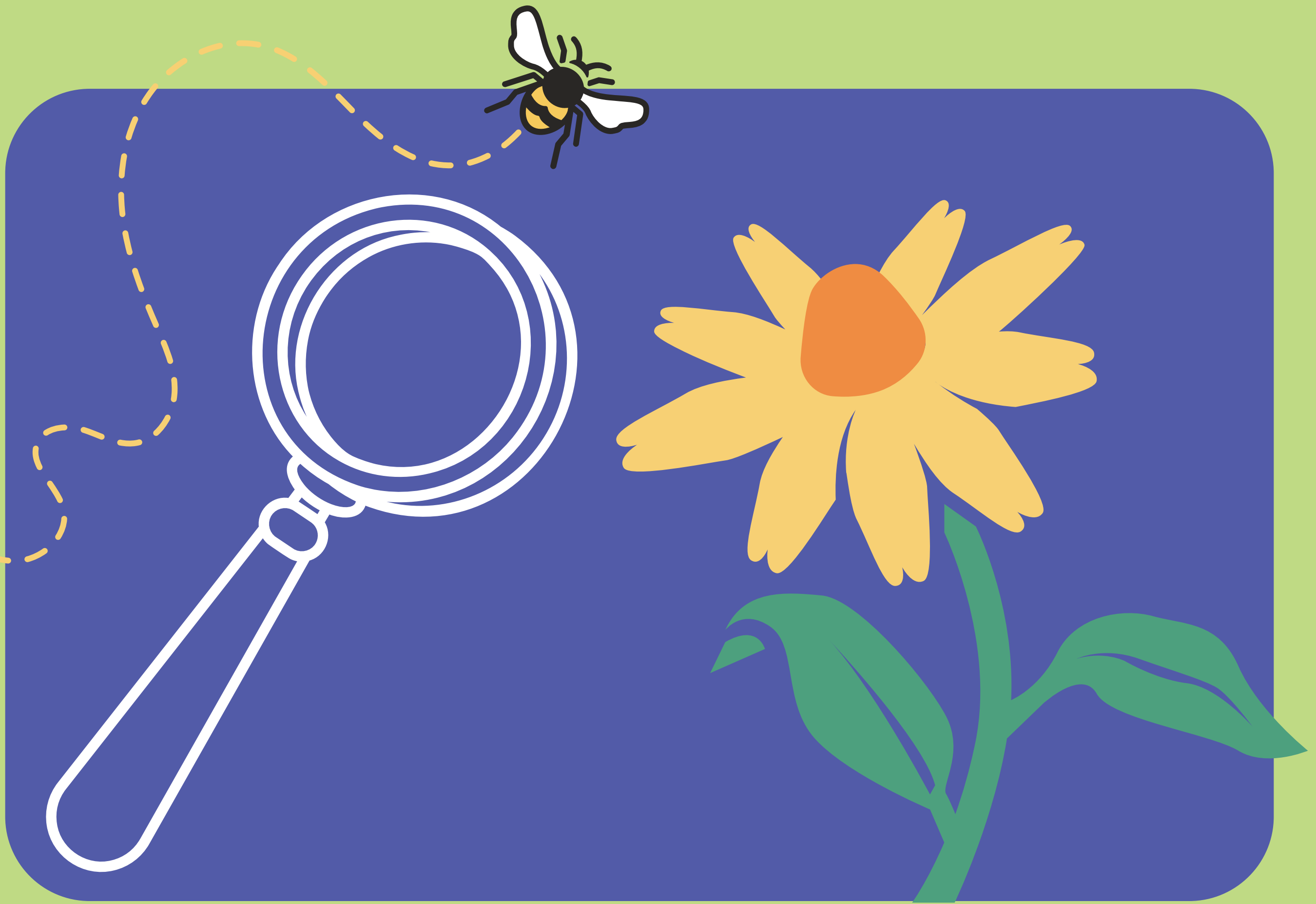




POLLINATOR PLANT HUNT



**On warm days in spring and summer,
you can watch bees, hummingbirds, and other
pollinators at their buzziest time of the year.
The long, sun-soaked blooms provide pollinators
maximum time to forage for nectar. Get to know
some of these pollinator plants and see how many
you can find along the playpath!**



ELKHART COUNTY
PARKS
— .ORG —

LANCE-LEAF COREOPSIS

Coreopsis lanceolata



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Butterflies, moths, beetles, and over 22 different bee species. In fall, finches, sparrows, and other seed-eating birds.



**FLORA
FACT**

This plant's name comes from the Greek words *koris* and *opsis* (meaning "bug like") in reference to the shape of the seeds, which resemble ticks.

WHITE WILD INDIGO

Baptisia leucantha (alba)



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Butterflies, including skippers, dusky-wings, and sulphur species. Attracts bumblebees and hummingbirds in late spring.



**FLORA
FACT**

This plant changes its look with the seasons. Young plants emerge with asparagus-like stalks in spring, white flowers in summer, blue-green foliage in fall, and large black seed pods that rattle in winter.

OLD FIELD GOLDENROD

Solidago nemoralis



FRIENDS WITH

Everybody! Bees, wasps, beetles, flies, and other pollinators are all attracted to their bright yellow blooms. It's also a host plant to over 120 butterfly and moth species.



FLORA FACT

Goldenrod often gets a bad rap for causing hay fever, but its less showy neighbor, Ragweed, is actually to blame. The pollen of goldenrod is too heavy to float freely in the air.

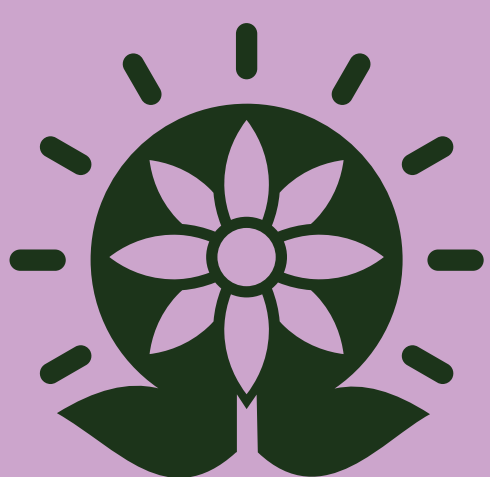
SHOWY TICK TREFOIL

Desmodium canadense



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Nectar-drinkers, like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. In fall, seed-eating birds also benefit from this plant.



**FLORA
FACT**

While it may seem unfamiliar, this plant has a way of sticking with you – literally! Their seeds, which look like tiny Doritos, stick to your clothes like the world's strongest Velcro.

PANICLED ASTER

Symphotrichum lanceolatum



FRIENDS WITH

Many kinds of butterflies, like the Pearl Crescent, and American Copper, Monarch. It also is a host for the Isabella Tiger Moth (aka “Woolly-Bear Caterpillar”).



FLORA FACT

The aster has a cool way of communicating with pollinators. When one of its flowers runs out of pollen, the colorful center will turn from yellow to red – making it invisible to pollinators’ eyes.

COMMON MILKWEED

Asclepias syriaca



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Monarch Butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and a variety of beetle and weevil pollinators.



**FLORA
FACT**

During World War II, the soft, fluffy fibers inside this plant's seedpods were widely used as a stuffing for pillows and lifejackets.

PARTRIDGE PEA

Chamaecrista fasciculata



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Many kinds of bees, including the bumblebee, carpenter bee, and honeybee. Also visited by ants, wasps, beetles, and is a host plant to the beautiful silk lo Moth.



**FLORA
FACT**

This plant is sometimes called the “Sensitive Pea” because when touched, it will close its feathery leaves. It also folds these leaves at night, earning it the other nickname “Sleeping Pea”.

RATTLESNAKE MASTER

Eryngium yuccifolium



**FRIENDS
WITH**

A huge variety of butterflies, like skippers, monarchs, buckeyes, hairstreaks, and swallowtails all visit for a nip of nectar. Also attracts moths, native bees, wasps, hoverflies, and beetles.



**FLORA
FACT**

While this plant can't help you to tame rattlesnakes or act as an antivenom, its dried seed heads make a rattling sound, similar to the snake.

BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Rudbeckia hirta



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Native bees, pollinating flies, beneficial wasps, and is a host plant for over 15 different kinds of butterflies and moths.



**FLORA
FACT**

Black-eyed Susan is considered a “pioneer plant”, meaning it is one of the first plants to grow back after a natural disaster or habitat disturbance.

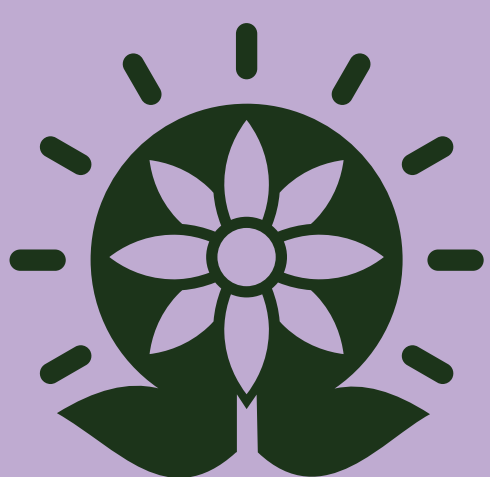
OHIO SPIDERWORT

Tradescantia ohimensis



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Early spring pollinators, especially native bees, honeybees, and butterflies. It is a host plant to skippers and moths.



**FLORA
FACT**

Don't worry, this plant doesn't attract spiders with warts. The name "Spiderwort" refers to the plant's sap, which dries into web-like threads when a stem is cut.

NODDING ONION

Allium cernuum



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Native bees, especially bumblebees – one of the few pollinators not bothered by hanging upside down for its lunch. Agile hummingbirds and butterflies also like to swoop in for a sip of nectar.



**FLORA
FACT**

The wild onion has been widely used by indigenous cultures of the Great Lakes region. The Algonquin word called these plants “Chicagou”. Today, the city of Chicago bears its name.

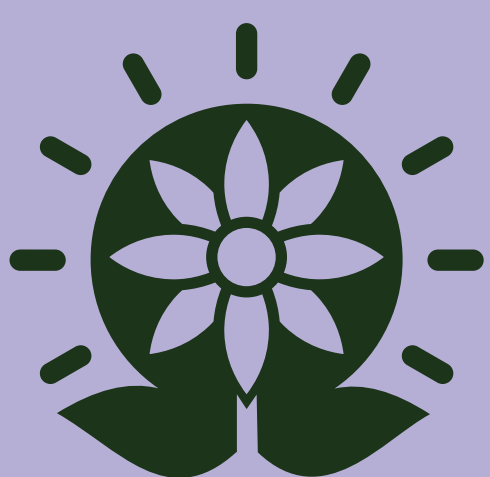
HAIRY BEARDTONGUE

Penstemon hirsutus



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Nectar-hungry spring visitors, like bumblebees and migrating hummingbirds. It is also a host plant to the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly.



**FLORA
FACT**

This plant's bizarre name comes from the fuzzy "tongues" poking out of each open flower. These tongues act like a swiffer for bees, dusting off pollen to aid the plant in pollination.

MAXIMILIAN'S SUNFLOWER

Helianthus maximiliani



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Nectar-seeking pollinators, like native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. In the colder months, seed-loving finches and sparrows flock to these flowers.

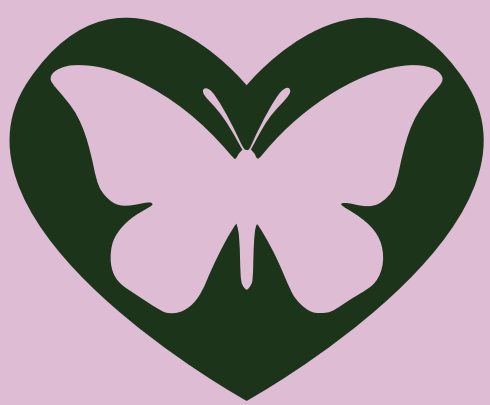


**FLORA
FACT**

Maximilian is one of the tallest species of perennial sunflowers. It typically grows 3-10 ft, but when conditions are right, it can grow up to 15 ft. tall!

HOARY VERVAIN

Verbena stricta



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Many different butterflies, including Common Buckeye, which it hosts. The blooms also brings in ants, wasps, and a mix of bee visitors in late summer.



**FLORA
FACT**

The name “Hoary” isn't what you might think. It actually means "appearing aged", due to the white-hairs that cover the stems and leaves.

ILLINOIS BUNDLEFLOWER

Desmanthus illinoensis



**FRIENDS
WITH**

Butterflies, small bees, and flies. Later in the season, game birds like Bobwhite Quail and Ring-necked Pheasants nibble on the seeds.



**FLORA
FACT**

The plant's name comes from the seedhead "bundles" that form at the top of the plant, which look somewhat like a rose-shaped pinecone.