



BALTIMORE LIVING IN SUSTAINABLE SIMPLICITY (BLISS) MEADOWS

Creating pollinator habitat and
enhancing food security in Baltimore

PROJECT GOALS

Create and enhance pollinator habitat to help
produce food in an urban environment.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Surrounding communities are given the opportunity to learn about the importance of green infrastructure and how it can positively impact their lives and city.
- Food production supports the business and provides food to the community.
- The addition of beehives/bees supports the growth of trees, flowers and other plants, which serve as food and shelter for wildlife.
- Allows for a diverse number of different species to co-exist.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Planting trees increases soil stabilization, which decreases nutrient runoff locally and downstream.
- Bees can improve the neighborhood's ecosystem by pollinating plants in parks and gardens, which encourages fruiting, seed production and plant diversity.
- Creating new wildlife habitats by adding native vegetation.
- Adding trees increases air and water quality because they are natural filters for excess nutrients.
- Permeable surfaces absorb and filter stormwater, reducing flooding and contaminants entering local waterways.



A new apiary garden at BLISS Meadows will provide habitat for pollinators and absorb stormwater runoff. (Photo: National Wildlife Federation)



Before installation of apiary garden. (Photo: National Wildlife Federation)



CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Woodland and pollinator habitat.
- Apiary garden.
- Lawn-converted meadow.
- Native tree and woodland plantings.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Atiya Wells formed a nonprofit group, Backyard Basecamp, then launched BLISS Meadows to begin reclaiming a 10-acre tract of mostly wooded land near her home in Northeast Baltimore. One of her goals is to connect urban families, especially people of color, with nature. The National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) goal is to enhance pollinator habitat, urban agriculture and nursery sites in Baltimore in partnership with community-based organizations looking to expand education, training and food access for local communities.


The sites will use native, pollinator-friendly plants that have been shown to reduce runoff, increase infiltration and be resilient in urban landscapes. BLISS Meadows has been identified as one of the sites to meet NWF's goals. At BLISS Meadows, project partners will create 2,000 square feet of pollinator habitat and plant 40 native trees. The pollinator habitat will consist of an apiary garden (to support honey production), a lawn-converted meadow and woodland plantings. The apiary garden was installed in May 2023, and the lawn conversion will take place in June 2023.

THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- Backyard Basecamp.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- National Wildlife Federation.
- The 6th Branch.
- Your Baltimore Community Development Corporation.
- Greener Garden.

CONTACTS

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