



## Research & Demonstration Grant Funding Program Annual Report

Please return the completed form along with the below referenced supplemental information to Jason Coleman at [jason.coleman@hpwd.org](mailto:jason.coleman@hpwd.org).

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<b>PROJECT TITLE: LUBBOCK MEMORIAL ARBORETUM FOUNDATION WILDFLOWER GARDEN RENOVATION</b>	
<b>TOTAL FUNDING: \$12674.71</b>	
<b>PROJECT COMPLETED: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</b>	<b>EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2020</b>
<b>PREFERRED PRESENTATION MONTH: NOVEMBER</b>	

Attached to this document please provide the following supplemental information:

- Financial report showing expenses, remaining funds, and financial contributions from cooperators and other funding sources.
- Any supplemental materials you would like the HPWD Board of Directors to review.
- A copy of the presentation materials for the HPWD Board of Directors meeting presentation.

1. **Describe your progress to date with the project (Word Limit 150):**

Preparation of the Wildflower Garden by mowing, removal of plant material, and solarization was completed on October 8, 2019. Direct sowing of wildflower seeds and planting of ornamental grasses was finished on November 2, 2019. Weeding of winter weeds was performed in January and February 2020.

Price quotes have been obtained from a local nursery for late summer planting of perennials for completion of the landscape design.

**2. Describe successes or setbacks observed with implementing the project (Word Limit 150):**

A total of 625 perennials were requested from local nurseries in February 2020 for delivery and planting in April 2020. The nurseries were unable to deliver the perennials due to the disruption of shipping from coronavirus restrictions and prioritizing of truck shipping for food and consumer paper goods.

Seed orders were made before the coronavirus pandemic and were successfully received. In particular the direct sowing of 5 ounces of poppy seeds (corn and oriental) resulted in a successful germination and sprouting. The larkspur sowing was very successful as well.

Maintenance weeding of the wildflower garden ceased due to the coronavirus lockdown and stay at home orders of Governor Abbot and Lubbock Mayor Pope. The closure of Texas Tech in March shut off the supply of volunteers from TTU. After the poppies and larkspurs went to seed the garden was invaded by dense growths of hedge parsley and prickly lettuce. These plants required removal by hand pulling.

**3. Describe the results of the proposed work objectives and expected impact of the research/demonstration being conducted (Word Limit 250):**

The objective of renovating the Wildflower Garden is to showcase waterwise plants that are well adapted to the South Plains, as well as developing a garden populated with low maintenance plant varieties requiring less gardening labor than the previous plantings. The Garden will demonstrate to homeowners the viability of plantings for their landscapes that use less water and require reduced maintenance. The display of red poppies attracted many visitors to the Arboretum and the Wildflower Garden in Spring 2020. The proliferation of rocket larkspur extended the bloom season of the poppies and continued to draw the public to view the Garden.

The expected impact will be an increased demand for waterwise plants by homeowners from local nurseries and improve their local availability.

**4. Describe the conservation impacts to the District (Word Limit 150):**

Replacement of traditional landscape plants in Lubbock area home landscapes with waterwise varieties will focus on the conservation of water and providing a diverse garden of plants for pollinators. A reduction in the use of public water supplies for landscape irrigation and a diminished requirement for landscape irrigation will result in less runoff from residential properties. In addition, the use of well adapted landscape plantings will result in use of less fertilizer and other soil amendments leading to runoff with lower nitrogen content.

**5. Please describe any outreach and communication plans you have for this project, including any awards submissions or potential opportunities for publishing (Word Limit 150):**

Once the Garden is successfully planted and developed, signage will be installed explaining the design of the Garden to the visitor. The use of waterwise plants will be emphasized. A listing of the plants will be available to the visitor to use in shopping for the desired plants.

A page on the Lubbock Arboretum website will be created explaining the origin and development of the project. Several postings on the Arboretum Facebook page with photos and videos have been used to explain the project to the public. These will continue to be made on a seasonal basis to refresh the presence of the project in the public eye and encourage learning by homeowners about landscapes alternative to the traditional outdoor plantings in Lubbock.

Two public presentations are planned for the Second Saturday program at the Arboretum that will demonstrate the before and after aspects of the Garden focusing on the replacement of conventional perennials with waterwise plants that are well adapted to the South Plains. This presentation will also be offered to the Lubbock Master Gardener Association for their internal and external education program.

