

# Approved Native Plants for the Burt Lake Watershed Greenbelt Cost Share Initiative

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of all possible native plants, but it represents plants that are commonly successful and commercially available. If there is an unlisted plant that you want to use, please get prior approval from Noah Jansen at 231-347-1181 or noah@watershedcouncil.org



Growth Form	Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun (full/part/shade)	Moisture Requirement	Height	Bloom Time	Color	Adaptive Features
Fern	Cystopteris bulbifera	Bulblet fern	p/s	moist	2'-3'	NA	NA	Needs consistent moisture but well-drained soils
Fern	Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive Fern	p/s	moist	1-2'	NA	NA	Branching rhizomes
Fern	Osmunda regalis	Royal Fern	f/p/s	moist	3-6'	NA	NA	Stout rhizomes, fibrous roots, spreads slowly
Fern	Polystrichum acrostichoides	Christmas Fern	p/s	dry to medium	1-2'	NA	NA	Fern; grows in fountain-like clumps, erosion control
Wildflowers	Acorus americanus	Sweet Flag	f/p	wet	1'-4'	May-Jun	Green	Prefers stable water levels and will decrease in abundance with flood depth increases. Will tolerate dry periods. Aromatic leaves, clump forming; wildlife food and cover. Avoid flooding of newly established plants
Wildflowers	Alisma triviale	Water Plantain	f	very wet	2'-4'	Jul-Sept	White	Shallow quiet slow moving water in mud of marshes, ponds, lakes, streams and ditches. Tolerates water fluctuation: wildlife food and cover.
Wildflowers	Allium cernuum	Nodding Wild Onion	f/p	medium	1'-2'	July-Aug	Pink	Low-growing and versatile
Wildflowers	Anemone canadensis	Canada Anemone	f/p	medium to moist	1'-2'	May-Sept	White	Rhizomes spread readily with some stabilization of soils
Wildflowers	Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine	f/p/s	medium	1.5'	Apr-Jul	Red/Yellow	Attracts hummingbirds, woodland wildflower, short lived perennial
Wildflowers	Aralia racemosa	Spikenard	f/p/s	medium	3'-6'	June-Aug	White	Versatile and very attractive in seed
Wildflowers	Asarum canadense	Wild Ginger	s	medium	0.5'	Apr-May	Dark Red	Ground cover, woodland
Wildflowers	Asclepias incarnata	Marsh Milkweed	f/p	medium to moist	3'-5'	June-Sept	Pink	Monarch host; rhizomes form single plants
Wildflowers	Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	f/p	dry to medium	1-3'	June-Aug	Orange	Attracts butterflies; can be aggressive
Wildflowers	Campanula rotundifolia	Harebell	f	dry to medium	1'-2'	June-Aug	Blue	Low-growing and well adapted to dry slopes; not competitive when combined with other plant - they are easily outcompeted without regular thinning of other plants.
Wildflowers	Caulophyllum thalictroides	Blue Cohosh	p/s	medium	1'-3'	Apr-May	Yellow	Woodland; berries turn dark blue; deer resistant
Wildflowers	Chelone glabra	Turtlehead	f/p/s	medium to moist	2'-4'	Aug-Sep	Cream	Deep fibrous roots
Wildflowers	Coreopsis lanceolata	Sand Coreopsis	f	dry to medium	2'	June-July	Yellow	Grows great on sandy soils but also on well-drained loamy soils
Wildflowers	Doellingeria umbellata	Tall Flat Top White Aster	f/p	medium to moist	1'-4'	Jul-Oct	White	Fibrous roots; butterflies
Wildflowers	Echinacea pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower	f	dry to medium	2-5'	May-Aug	Lavender	Attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and small songbirds
Wildflowers	Eupatorium perfoliatum	Boneset	f/p	medium to moist	3'-5'	July-Oct	White	Shallow fibrous roots; butterflies
Wildflowers	Eurybia macrophylla	Big-leaf aster	p/s	medium dry to medium	1'-3'	July-Aug	Violet	Larval host and nectar source for butterflies; good for dry shade; found over a large portion of the state.

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Wildflowers	Euthamia graminifolia	Grass-leaved goldenrod	f/p	medium to moist	1'-4'	Jul-Sept	Yellow	Spreads opportunistically from rhizomes
Wildflowers	Eutrochium maculatum	Joe-Pye Weed	f/p	medium to moist	4'-7'	June-Oct	Pink	Shallow fibrous roots; butterflies
Wildflowers	Fragaria virginiana	Wild Strawberry	f/p	medium	0.5'	April-June	White	Ground cover; beneficial to wildlife; edible fruit
Wildflowers	Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	f/p	medium to moist	3'-5'	Jul-Nov	Yellow	Fibrous, shallow root system; can be opportunistic
Wildflowers	Helianthus giganteus	Tall Sunflower	f/p	medium to moist	5'-12'	Jul-Sept	Yellow	Spreads from rhizomes
Wildflowers	Helianthus occidentalis	Western Sunflower	f/p	dry to medium	2'-3'	July-Sept	Yellow	Nectar and seed source
Wildflowers	Heliopsis helianthoides	False Sunflower	f/p	medium	2-5'	June-Sept	Yellow	Easily grown; grows well in clay
Wildflowers	Iris versicolor	Blue Flag (Wild Iris)	f/p	moist to wet	2-3'	May-Jul	Blue	Can tolerate regular inundation, but young shoots should not be inundated. Tuberos roots send out fibrous masses
Wildflowers	Iris virginica	Blue Flag (Wild Iris)	f/p/s	moist to wet	2'-3'	May-Jul	Purple	Tuberos roots send out fibrous masses.
Wildflowers	Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower	f/p	moist	2-4'	July-Sept	Red	Shallow roots, short-lived; butterflies and hummingbirds
Wildflowers	Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia	f/p	medium to moist	1-3'	July-Sept	Blue	Shallow, fibrous roots
Wildflowers	Mimulus ringens	Allegheny Monkeyflower	f/p	medium to moist	1-3'	July-Sept	Blue	Pretty flower
Wildflowers	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamont	f/p	dry to medium	2-4'	June-Sept	Purple	Aromatic; attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds
Wildflowers	Nymphaea odorata (N. tuberosa)	White Water Lily	f/p	very wet	1'	May-Sept	White	Breaks up wave action; deep water plant. Flowers open in early morning and close about noon.
Wildflowers	Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove Beard Tongue	f/p/s	medium to moist	3-4'	May-June	White	Beautiful flower, attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds
Wildflowers	Penstemon hirsutus	Penstemon	f	dry to medium	1'-2'	May-July	Pink	Low-growing and well adapted to dry slopes; attractive to birds
Wildflowers	Penthorum sedoides	Ditch stonecrop	f/p	moist to wet	1'-3'	June-Oct	Green	Fibrous, shallow root system; can be opportunistic
Wildflowers	Persicaria amphibia	Water smartweed	f/p	moist to wet	1'-2'	June-Oct	Rose	Spreads by rhizomes
Wildflowers	Physotegia virginiana	Obedient plant	f/p	medium to moist	2'-5'	Aug-Oct	Pink	Nectar source; spreads by small rhizomes to carpet area
Wildflowers	Polygonatum biflorum	True Solomon's Seal	f/p/s	medium	1'-4'	Apr-June	Green/white	Deer resistant (but not rabbit/squirrel)
Wildflowers	Pontederia cordata	Pickeralweed	f/p	very wet	1'-3'	June-Sept	Violet	Tolerates regular flooding. Slow-moving areas. Thick, spreading rhizomes, forms colonies
Wildflowers	Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	f/p	medium	3-5'	July-Sept	Yellow	Wildlife benefits, attracts butterflies; sandy and clay soils
Wildflowers	Rudbeckia hirta	Black Eyed Susan	f/p	dry to medium	1-3'	Jun-Sept	Yellow	wildlife benefits; does well in sandy soils; biennial
Wildflowers	Rudbeckia laciniata	Cut-Leaved Coneflower	f/p/s	medium to moist	3'-10'	July-Sept	Yellow	
Wildflowers	Sagittaria latifolia	Arrowhead	f/p	very wet	1'-4'	June-Sept	White	Will tolerate regular inundation and withstand periods of drought. Wildlife food and cover - protect new plants especially from Canada geese.
Wildflowers	Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie dock	f	dry to medium	2'-10'	July-Sept	Yellow	Tall and wild - a true prairie species; nectar and seed source

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Wildflowers	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass	f/p	medium	1'	May-Aug	Blue	Short and very attractive
Wildflowers	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	False Solomon's Seal	p/s	dry to medium	1'-2'	May-June	White	Woodland
Wildflowers	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	Starry Solomon's Seal	f/p	dry to medium	1'-2'	May-July	White	Moist meadows in woodlands, woodland borders, sandy riverbanks, semi-wooded slopes
Wildflowers	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	Early Goldenrod	f/p	dry to medium	2-4'	June-Sept	Yellow	Attracts butterflies, moths, game birds and song birds
Wildflowers	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>	Ohio Goldenrod	f/p	medium to moist	2-4'	July-Oct	Yellow	
Wildflowers	<i>Solidago patula</i>	Roundleaf Goldenrod	f/p/s	medium to moist	3-6'	Aug-Oct	Yellow	Rhizomatous root growth. Drought tolerance is low.
Wildflowers	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	f/p	dry to medium	1'-4'	July-Oct	Yellow	Tall and wild - a true prairie species; nectar source
Wildflowers	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Aster	f/p	dry to medium	3'-5'	Aug-Oct	Blue	Nectar source for butterflies and seed source for birds
Wildflowers	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	f/p	medium to moist	3'-6'	Jul-Oct	Violet	Short rhizomes, readily reseeds on disturbed soils; butterflies
Wildflowers	<i>Symphotrichum puniceum</i>	Swamp aster	f/p	medium to wet	3'-6'	Aug-Oct	Lav/white	Spreads opportunistically from rhizomes
Wildflowers	<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Purple Meadow Rue	f/p	medium to moist	3'-6'	May-July	Cream	Fibrous, shallow root system; can be opportunistic
Wildflowers	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Spiderwort	f/p	dry to medium	2-4'	June-July	Blue	Aggressive; wildlife cover
Wildflowers	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	f/p	medium to moist	3'-6'	June-Sept	Violet	Short spreading tough roots; any soils; opportunistic; short lived
Wildflowers	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary vervain	f	dry to medium	2'-3'	July-Sept	Dark blue	Tall and wild - a true prairie species; nectar source
Wildflowers	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	f/p	medium to moist	2'-6'	June-Sept	White	Nectar source; thick root system; likes alkaline soils
Wildflowers	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander's	f/p/s	medium to moist	1'-3'	Apr-June	Yellow	Nectar source; thick root system
Grass/Sedge	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big blue stem	f/p	dry to moist	3'-8'	July-Aug	Green	Grass; erosion control use, beneficial to birds; can be opportunistic
Grass/Sedge	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Canada blue-joint grass	f/p	moist	2'-4'	June	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water sedge	f/p	moist to wet	2'-3'	Apr-June	Green	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly sedge	f/p	moist to wet	2'-3'	May-June	Green	Rhizomes form dense clumps
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed sedge	f/p/s	moist to wet	2'-5'	May-June	Green	Likes semi-shade; forms dense clumps
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Porcupine sedge	f/p/s	moist to wet	2'-3'	May-June	Green	Rhizomes form dense clumps
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	Lake sedge	f/p/s	moist to wet	2'-4'	May-June	Green	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i>	Awl-fruited sedge	f/p/s	medium to moist	1'-3'	Apr-May	Brown	Prefers calcareous soils; fibrous roots form clumps
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock sedge	f/p	moist to wet	2'-3'	Apr-June	Brown	Forms hummocks, slow spreading with dense roots
Grass/Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	f/p	medium to wet	2'-3'	May-June	Brown	Rhizomes form dense clumps
Grass/Sedge	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye	f/p	dry to medium	2-5'	June-Aug	Green	Grass; cool season, clump forming; dry sunny slopes

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Grass/Sedge	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	f/p	medium to moist	2'-4'	June	Green	Bunching, cool season, short-lived
Grass/Sedge	<i>Glyceria canadensis</i>	Rattlesnake grass	f/p	moist to wet	2'-5'	June	Green	Bunching, cool season grass with dense roots
Grass/Sedge	<i>Glyceria striata</i>	Fowl manna grass	f/p/s	medium to moist	1'-5'	May-June	Green	Bunching, cool season grass with dense roots
Grass/Sedge	<i>Hystrix patula</i>	Bottlebrush grass	s	dry to medium	3'	May-June	Green	For dry shade, savana, rocky upland woodlands
Grass/Sedge	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	June grass	f	dry to medium	1'-2'	May-June	Green	Clay soils, woodlands; tolerates seasonal flooding
Grass/Sedge	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	f/p	dry to moist	4'-6'	Aug-Oct	Green	Bunching, cool season grass with dense roots; excellent soil stabilizer
Grass/Sedge	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Blue Stem	f	dry to medium	2-4'	Aug	Green	Grass; attractive reddish brown fall color
Grass/Sedge	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass	f/p	dry to moist	3-4'	Aug	Green	Grass; showy; clump forming
Grass/Sedge	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie cord grass	f	medium to moist	3'-7'	Jul-Aug	Green	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Grass/Sedge	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed	f/p	dry to moist	1'-3'	Aug-Sept	Green	Very ornamental
Rush	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic rush	f/p	medium to wet	1-2'	May-Aug	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes, forming clumps, prefers sandy shores
Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	f/p	moist to wet	1'-4'	July	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey rush	f	medium to moist	1'-2'	Jun-Sept	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>	Hard-stem bulrush	f	wet to very wet	3-9'	May-Sept	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>	Three square bulrush	f/p	wet to very wet	3-5'	Jul-Sept	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stem bulrush	f/p	moist to very wet	3-9'	Jun-Sept	Brown	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Green bulrush	f	moist to wet	3'-5'	Jun-Aug	Brown	Strong fibrous roots form clumps in high water
Rush	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Wool grass	f	moist to wet	3'-5'	June-Sept	Tan	Strong fibrous roots form clumps in high water
Rush	<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	River bulrush	f	moist to wet	3'-7'	May-July	Green	Spreads opportunistically by rhizomes
Rush	<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	Common bur-reed	f	very wet	2'-6'	May-Aug	Green	Provides a nice wave buffer. Has potential to outcompete cattails. Spreads readily from rhizomes; can be opportunistic
Shrub	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Speckled alder	f/p/s	moist	25'	Mar-May	Brown	Shallow rooted, but can be opportunistic
Shrub	<i>Betula pumila</i>	Bog Birch	f/p	moist	3-7'	Apr-May	Yellow	
Shrub	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	f/p	dry to medium	3-4'	June-July	White	Shrub; taprooted; drought tolerant
Shrub	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky dogwood	f/p	medium to wet	10'	May-July	White	Wildlife, fibrous roots, can be opportunistic: commonly used as live stakes
Shrub	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier dogwood	f/p	medium to wet	10'	May-Sept	White	Wildlife, fibrous roots, can be opportunistic: commonly used as live stakes
Shrub	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	Swamp Loosestrife	f/p	very wet	2'-4'	July-Sept	Magenta	Often colonizes in monotypic stands - has great potential in bioengineering technology
Shrub	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	p/s	dry to medium	10'-15'	Sept-Nov	Yellow	Beneficial to a variety of wildlife

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Shrub	Ilex verticillata	Michigan Holly	f/p/s	medium to wet	6-12'	May-June	White	Male & female plants, prefers acidic soil, shall fibrous roots
Shrub	Myrica gale	Sweet Gale	f/p	moist to wet	2-6'	May-June	Yellow-green	
Shrub	Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark	f/p	medium to moist	10'	May-June	White	Commonly used as live stakes
Shrub	Rosa palustris	Swamp Rose	f/p/s	medium to moist	2'-7'	June-Aug	Pink	
Shrub	Salix discolor	Pussy willow	f/p	moist to wet	15-25'	May	Silver	Wildlife, fibrous roots, can be opportunistic: commonly used as live stakes
Shrub	Salix exigua (S. interior)	Sandbar willow	f	moist to wet	6-20'	Apr-May	Yellow	Commonly used as live stakes
Shrub	Sambucus canadensis	American Elderberry	f/p/s	medium to wet	5-12'	June-Aug	White	Spreads by rhizomes; Fruit is edible; great for birds
Shrub	Sambucus racemosa (pubens)	Red-berried elder	f/p	medium dry to medium	5'-12'	May-June	White	Found all over the state; great for birds
Shrub	Spiraea alba	Meadowsweet	f/p	medium to moist	3'-6'	June-Aug	White	Dense, fibrous roots, can be opportunistic, suckering, shallow roots
Shrub	Viburnum acerifolium	Maple-Leaf Viburnum	f/p/s	dry to medium	2-6'	June	White	Shrub; reddish-purple fall color; black fruit; beneficial to wildlife
Shrub	Viburnum dentatum	Arrow Wood	f/p/s	medium to moist	15'	May-June	White	Suckering
Shrub	Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry	p/s	medium to moist	20'	Apr-June	White	Suckering, shallow, fibrous roots
Tree	Acer rubrum	Red Maple	f/p/s	medium	75-100'	Mar-May	Green/red	Provides food for squirrels and some birds; typically deer resistant
Tree	Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	f/p	medium to moist	75-100'	Mar-Apr	Red	Shallow, wide spread fibrous roots
Tree	Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	p/s	medium	100'	April-May	Yellow	Tree; shade provider; used for maple syrup production
Tree	Amelanchier arborea	Serviceberry	f/p/s	medium	15'	April-May	White	Shrub; attracts game birds and songbirds, edible berry
Tree	Betula alleghaniensis	Yellow Birch	p/s	medium	60-80'	Apr-May	Purple/yellow	Good edge tree; food for birds and other wildlife
Tree	Betula papyrifera	Paper birch	f/p	medium	30'-60'	May-June	Brown	Larval host for butterflies
Tree	Pinus strobus	White Pine	f/p	dry to medium	150'	NA	NA	Evergreen tree; tolerates many soil types; MI state tree
Tree	Populus balsamifera	Balsam Poplar	f	medium to moist	60-80'	Apr-May	Yellow-brown	Clonal, propogate by stem cuttings
Tree	Populus deltoides	Eastern Cottonwood	f	dry to moist	75-100'	Apr-May	Brown	Commonly used as live stakes
Tree	Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	f/p	medium	50'-85'	May-June	White	Fruit is edible; larval and nectar source for butterflies
Tree	Quercus alba	White Oak	f/p	dry to medium	25'-100'	Apr-May	Yellow/green	Excellent residential tree though does not withstand construction damage well; large crown; red fall color; food source for a variety of wildlife
Tree	Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	f	dry to medium	60'-85'	May-June	Green	Larval host for butterflies; food source for wildlife
Tree	Quercus rubra	Red Oak	f/p	medium dry to medium	65'-90'	May-June	Green/yellow	Fast growing; larval host for butterflies; food source for wildlife
Tree	Salix nigra	Black willow	f/p	medium to wet	35-50'	Apr-May	Yellow-green	Commonly used as live stakes, shallow roots

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Tree	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern White Cedar	f/p/s	dry to moist	50'	Apr-May	Brown	Favorite deer browse
Tree	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	f/p	medium	60-100'	June-July	Yellow	Excellent for a large variety of wildlife; nectar excellent for honeybees

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