

What is a NATIVE plant species?

Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve is home to many beautiful and special plants that have grown there for hundreds of years. We call these plants **Native Plants**. Native plants can be trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, and more! They can grow in forests, wetlands, and meadows. Any plant that has grown in an area for a very, very long time can be called a native plant.



Lizard's Tail



Woodland Sunflower

Habitat Restoration Project Spring 2020 – Summer 2021

- Planted over 40,000 **NATIVE** species plants!!!

Some NATIVE species PLANTED at the Preserve	
	
Black-eyed Susan	Blue Flag Iris
	
Purple Milkweed	Wild Bergamot
	
Nodding Wild Onion	Cut Leaf Coneflower
	
Marsh Blazing Star	Red Lobelia Cardinal Flower

Why are **Native** plant species important?

Native plants **are important** for many reasons.

- They help keep our fresh water clean by filtering the water with their roots, so that people and animals can drink and live.
- They provide shelter for wildlife.
- They are the best hosts for insects, which have evolved closely alongside the plants, and use them as food and places to lay their eggs.
- Some insects, called “pollinators” move pollen to and from different plants to make seeds or fruit, like cherries and apples. These food are important to animals and people.



Swamp Milkweed