



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

1055 EATON DRIVE, FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY  
41017

TELEPHONE: (859) 344-8888 / FAX: (859) 344-1531

WEBSITE: [www.kenton.kyschools.us](http://www.kenton.kyschools.us)

Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

**KCSD ISSUE PAPER**

**DATE:**

June 26, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

Consider/Approve agreement to work with Northern Kentucky University for the installation of a Pollinator Habitat to be studied by students of KCSD and NKU for five years.

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION 01.11

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

Scott High School is implementing a new program that will provide a certification pathway for students in Ecology and Plant Science. This program will prepare students to take the Bayer Plant and Crop Sciences certification exam. Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC) and Northern Kentucky University (NKU) have offered assistance, and the teacher responsible for the curriculum and course has been working with them and their resources to develop an engaging and rigorous curriculum. NKU has offered a research opportunity to collaborate with various schools on investigating pollinator habitats. In a partnership with the CNC and the Boone County Conservation District, the university wants to "engage and involve middle and high school students in the process of science by investigating habitat restoration, designing and carrying out their own research, and exploring conservation of native pollinators. Participating schools will gain the opportunity for students to do research onsite, interaction with NKU undergraduates and faculty, and curriculum tailored to the school's interests." The research will take place on Scott High School property, allowing access for all Scott and Woodland Middle School students. These plots will be randomly assigned a mixture of seeds by NKU students and faculty, with initial research taking place by NKU students and faculty in summer/fall 2019. There is a minimum commitment of five years, allowing for many years of research and scientific investigations for students of Scott and Woodland. There is also an opportunity, provided by CNC, for the students in the Greenhouse Coordinator course (the third and final course in the program, prior to internships) for a final project at a scientific summit hosted by CNC and NKU. The teacher responsible for the program at the high school will coordinate with district staff for the final location of the research area.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

None – all expenses to be covered by NKU

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of signing an agreement to work with Northern Kentucky University for the installation of a Pollinator Habitat to be studied by students of KCSD and NKU for five years..

**Kenton County Board of Education**

Board Members: Carl Wicklund, Chairperson Karen L. Collins, Vice Chairperson Carla Egan Shannon Herold Jessica Jehn  
"The Kenton County Board of Education provides *Equal Education & Employment Opportunities.*"

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Samantha Norris – [Samantha.norris@kenton.kyschools.us](mailto:Samantha.norris@kenton.kyschools.us), 618-616-1233

  
Principal

  
District Administrator

  
Superintendent

*Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.  
Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.*

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## Pollinator Habitat Initiative Agreement

*A collaborative of Northern Kentucky University (NKU), Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC), Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) and regional schools*

### Project Summary

NKU scientists are researching how to create the best habitat for pollinators and want to work with local schools to install and research pollinator gardens. In partnership with the Cincinnati Nature Center and the Boone County Conservation District we want to engage and involve middle and high school students in the process of science by investigating habitat restoration, designing and carrying out their own research, and exploring conservation of native pollinators.

Participating schools will gain the opportunity for students to do research onsite, interaction with NKU undergraduates and faculty, and curriculum tailored to the school's interests. NKU participants will get to investigate research questions with community partners. The CNC and BCCD will get to work with schools to increase pollinator habitat throughout our region.

### Participating Schools Agree to the Following Project Requirements

- Designate project area: Two, 25 m x 3 m plots with minimum distance between the two plots of 3 m.
- Plots must receive a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day. Hillsides are ok, but not steep.
- No herbicide or insecticide application allowed on plots.
- No fertilization of plots allowed, this can promote invasive species growth.
- A single mowing event should take place annually between Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>. All cut vegetation should remain on the plot. Absolutely no other mowing allowed. We can help coordinate if needed.
- Minimum commitment of 5 years; NKU/CNC/BCCD will check in annually.
- Plots accessible to NKU faculty and students and CNC and BCCD staff at all times.
- Begin solarization of plots by the end of July 2019. We will provide all supplies and a sign.
- Work with partners to prepare and seed plots in fall 2019. We will provide seed.
- Schools (students) complete Habitat Assessment in fall 2019.
- Report on status of prairie in early spring 2020
- Collect first data in mid to late May 2020

### Contacts

NKU: Dr. Kristy Hopfensperger, 859-572-5305, [hopfenspek1@nku.edu](mailto:hopfenspek1@nku.edu)  
 Dr. Denise Robertson, 859-572-6929, [robertsonde@nku.edu](mailto:robertsonde@nku.edu)  
 CNC: Connie O'Connor, 513-965-4891, [coconnor@cincynature.org](mailto:coconnor@cincynature.org)  
 BCCD: Susan Brown, 859-568-6277, [susanbrown@bccdky.org](mailto:susanbrown@bccdky.org)

Teacher Printed Name

Teacher Signature

Date

Principal Printed Name

Principal Signature

Date

Maintenance Manager Printed Name (if needed)

Maintenance Manager Signature (if needed)

Date