



*April is*  
**Ohio Native Plant Month**

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**This April Ohio will celebrate its first, official Ohio Native Plant Month!**

On July 18, 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill 59 of the 133 General Assembly into law, making Ohio one of the first states in the country to have an entire month dedicated to our native plants!



Seated: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine; Standing from left to right: Ben James, Legislative Aide for Representative Scott Wiggam, Representative Scott Wiggam (lead sponsor of this legislation), Ohio Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted, Senator Bob Hackett, Former First Lady of Ohio, Hope Taft, and Horticulturist, Nancy Linz. Photo provided courtesy of the office of Governor Mike DeWine.

**House Bill 59:** "The month of April is designated as 'Ohio Native Plant Month' to increase public awareness of Ohio's native plants and the many benefits they provide to pollinators, Ohio's economy, and the health of Ohio's environment."

**We Need Your Help!**

**First**, we need your help spreading the word that Ohio now has a Native Plant Month. Please forward this flyer and share the news with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, clubs and organizations across Ohio.

**Second**, this April please consider planting a native tree in your yard or community, plant one small plant or an entire garden to support native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, participate in a wildflower walk to enjoy our wonderful spring ephemerals, replace a small lawn area with beneficial native plants, or remove invasive plants from your yard to provide a natural habitat for native plants to thrive.

Once you decide what you are going to do in April, PLEASE let us know!

Visit our new website to learn more about the benefits of Ohio's Native Plants and tell us what you are planning for April 2020: [www.OhioNativePlantMonth.org](http://www.OhioNativePlantMonth.org)



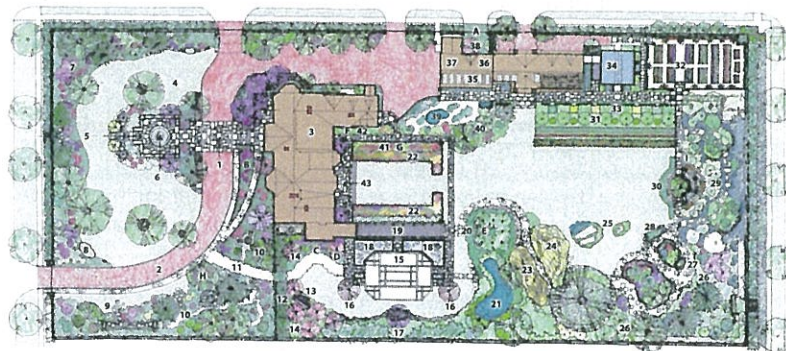


## *The Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden*

*358 N. Parkview Avenue  
Bexley, Ohio 43209*

The idea of the Heritage Garden was first conceived in 2000 as a way to showcase Ohio's natural history and environment to the thousands of yearly visitors to the Ohio Governor's Residence.

Hope Taft, who during that time was Ohio's first lady, and a small team of volunteers worked with a landscape architect and a garden designer to develop a master plan to incorporate the five physiographic regions of the state into the landscape surrounding the Governor's Residence. Construction of the Heritage Garden began in the spring of 2001 with the help of many hands, including: master gardeners, several state departments, arboreta, nurseries, universities, garden clubs, and others. Today, the AIA award-winning garden is landscaped with native plants to appear as if they are growing in their natural habitat. Referred in legislation as Ohio's state botanical garden of native plants, the garden is an affiliate of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.



The front fence line along the west side of the grounds is home to the First Lady's Perennial Garden, featuring native plants and their cultivars. An old white pine in the front yard is the basis of a Woodland Wildflower Garden that represents what much of Ohio looked like when early settlers first arrived. The Meadow Garden is planted in a formal English border garden design. A formal Water Garden frames the patio on the south side of the house and showcases native wetland and water plants.

In the back yard, the Prairie Garden, with plants representing those that once covered two-thirds of the state, fills a space by the greenhouse. The Sand Dune holds plants from the shores of Lake Erie and tells a story of how this habitat came into Ohio with the rise and fall of the state's northern coast under glacial pressure. A Cranberry Bog mimics the kettle lakes dug by the retreating ice. Glaciated and Un-glaciated Ohio are featured in the Appalachian Garden, which hosts many plants brought to the state by an ancient river. Vines, native along the Ohio River, cling to the house walls. In the rear of the property, the Vegetable Garden highlights the importance of agriculture to the state while the Medicinal Garden, surrounding a clone from an original Johnny Appleseed tree, features plants used by Native Americans and early settlers to treat ailments.

Docent-guided, one-hour tours of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden are offered on most Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. Tours can be scheduled by calling 614-644-7644 or online at [www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov](http://www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov). **Volunteer to help maintain the garden on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, May-Oct.** Email [ohiohoper@yahoo.com](mailto:ohiohoper@yahoo.com) for more information.