

BECOME AN ECOLOGICAL GARDENER.

Discover how to transform human spaces into healthy, vibrant ecosystems.



THE ECOLOGICAL GARDENER TRAINING PROGRAM

at the **Horn Farm Center** teaches the skills for designing, building, and stewarding biodiverse native habitats that support the interconnected health of wildlife and humans.

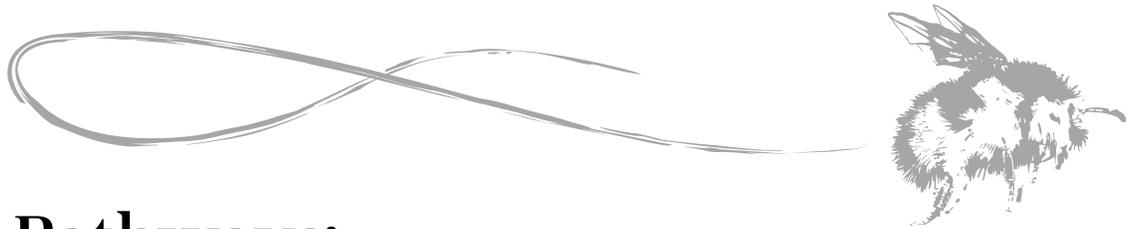


PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Ecological Gardener Training Program is designed for the home gardener or landscape practitioner looking to expand their skills in building native habitat for pollinators and other wildlife in residential and community settings.

This program entails **16 weeks** of intensive training, broken down into two segments. For the first four weeks, participants engage in an **Ecological Core Curriculum** to gain foundational knowledge in regional ecology and regenerative earthcare. This is followed by 12 weeks of hands-on training in practices specific to ecological gardening.

2023 participants will **choose a learning path** based on personal goals and outcomes.



Learning Pathways:



Explorers

For enthusiasts, inquirers, and the eco-curious.

Focused on field observation of native plants and plant communities, identification, and foundations of ecological landscape design.



Deep-Divers

For home gardeners and landscape practitioners, active or aspiring.

An extension of the "Explorer" path incorporating real-life project implementation and emergent discovery rooted in the craft.

PROGRAM COVERAGE

FIRST FOUR WEEKS:

Ecological Core Classroom Curriculum

Mondays, 2/13-3/6, 8am-4pm

Held in conjunction with the [Land Steward Training Program](#), this blended curriculum covers essential ecological foundations for restorative earthwork. Students are given the opportunity to explore new lenses for seeing and interacting with natural systems.

Topics:

- 🌿 Basic ecology and natural cycles.
- 🌿 Historical land uses and misuses.
- 🌿 Considerations for regenerative land design.
- 🌿 Disturbance-based land management.
- 🌿 Field and forest movement ergonomics.



TWELVE WEEKS: Hands-On Training

Tuesdays, 3/14-5/30, 8am-12pm or 10am-12pm (depending on path)

Training sessions at the Horn Farm covering topics in ...

Design:

- 🌿 Site observation & assessment
- 🌿 Landscape archetypes
- 🌿 Scaled mapping & tools
- 🌿 Stormwater calculations
- 🌿 Phased lawn conversion

Native plants:

- 🌿 ID & nature journaling
- 🌿 Ecosystem services & host plants
- 🌿 Ecoregions & local ecotypes

Site work:

- 🌿 Preparation
- 🌿 Installation
- 🌿 Stewarding
- 🌿 Body mechanics & tool care



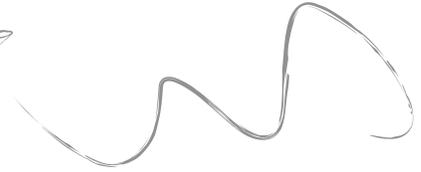
ENGAGEMENT AND OUTCOMES

EXPLORERS

68 total hours

DEEP-DIVERS

80 total hours



(Re)kindle a meaningful, action-based connection with the natural world.

Gain knowledge in ecological systems and plant identification.

Expand observation skills for native plants communities and landscape archetypes.

Practice foundational field skills in gardening for ecology and wildlife.

Experience hands-on, professional project design and implementation in a collaborative setting.

Take home a toolkit outfitted for ecological observation and gardening, including a Hori Hori knife and loupe.

Receive *Ecological Gardener Training Certificate

**Certifies in-depth learning and holds credibility when applying for local restoration positions.*

Further enrichment:

-  Field trips (open to both pathways) to explore our ecoregion and observe plant communities in the field.
-  Optional **natural movement** sessions with HFC Farm Manager Andrew Horn, available on occasion after lunch.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mondays, 2/13 to 3/6, then Tuesdays, 3/14 to 5/30

**Note that hour commitments are dependent on the path you choose.*

WEEKS 1-4

2/13, 2/20
2/27, 3/6

Ecological Core Curriculum

All classes held at **Hellam Township Municipal Building*

8 hours each class (8am-4pm)

WEEKS 5-16

Hands-On Training

Classes will be held at the **Horn Farm Center and regional natural public spaces.
Transportation to field observation locations is the responsibility of the student.*

EXPLORERS



DEEP-DIVERS



3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/4
4/11, 4/18

**4 hours
each week
(8am-12pm)**

**4 hours
each week
(8am-12pm)**

4/25, 5/2
5/9, 5/16
5/23, 5/30

**2 hours
each week
(10am-12pm)**

**Not including additional out-of-class
hours to complete culminating project,
which will be presented on 5/30.*

*Both cohorts are encouraged to pack a lunch and stick around to socialize
after class finishes.*



APPLICATION AND FEES

To Apply:

Head to <https://hornfarmcenter.org/ecological-gardening-training/> and submit an application. After applying, you will schedule an interview with the instructor(s) to discuss your interests, goals, and selected pathway(s).

Program Costs:

After the interview, you will receive a registration link for a non-refundable \$100 deposit.

EGTP Explorer Path

(68 hours):

\$720

EGTP Deep- Diver Path

(80 hours):

\$900

Combining Programs

EGTP can be combined with the [Land Steward Training Program \(LSTP\)](https://hornfarmcenter.org/land-steward-training/), which runs on **Mondays** following the four-week Core Curriculum.

More info on LSTP at: <https://hornfarmcenter.org/land-steward-training/>

EGTP Explorer
Path
+
LSTP Explorer
Path

\$1450
(132 hours)

EGTP Explorer
Track
+
LSTP Deep-
Diver Path

\$1890
(164 hours)

EGTP Deep-
Diver Path
+
LSTP Explorer
Path

\$1620
(144 hours)

Questions?

education@hornfarmcenter.org



The 2022 EGTP cohort at the Horn Farm

A Note on our Sponsors:

This project was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. This grant was awarded through the Susquehanna Riverlands Partnership, with management oversight provided by the Lancaster Conservancy.

We are a partner of the Susquehanna Riverlands, a partnership of organizations working to protect, preserve, and steward the natural lands along the Lower Susquehanna River, emphasizing connectivity, eco-system health, and sustainable public access. To learn more, please visit www.SusquehannaRiverlands.com.



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GROWING ECOLOGICAL GARDENS