



Making a Meadow, Episode 1: **Determining Your Objectives**

This companion document to the first video in the *Making a Meadow* series provides more information about the important first step in meadow restoration: understanding your own objectives.

When creating a meadow it is critical to determine what you want to accomplish before you start planting. Meadows can look very different based on their purposes. For example, a meadow created for pollinators is very different from a meadow designed to support nesting birds. Cultural factors are also important, such as restrictions on vegetation height in your neighborhood.

Following are key factors to consider when planning a meadow:

- ❖ What is the goal of restoring your meadow?
 - Support a favorite species such as the monarch butterfly?
 - Support certain groups of species like butterflies, bees, or birds?
 - Support wildlife in general?
 - Save time and money by reducing mowing needs?
 - Protect water quality, sequester carbon, build soil, and numerous other ecological benefits?
 - Create a beautiful landscape feature?
 - Grow edible plants to use in food and drink?
 - Steward a plant community to help you learn about ecology with your family?
- ❖ How do you want your meadow to look?
 - Do you want a “neat and tidy” meadow or can it look “messy?”
 - Are there flower color combinations you want overall or at certain times of year?
 - Are there specific plants or families of plants you want in your meadow?
- ❖ Are there restrictions in your neighborhood on plant height/appearance?
 - If your neighborhood has restrictions on how you can manage your landscaping be sure to check if your plan is allowed. In some cases you may need to adjust your plant selection.

Next time we will discuss “reading” a site to plan your meadow in terms of physical features including size and shape, and growing conditions like soil moisture, light, and other important factors.

Feel free to reach out to us with any questions at:
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