

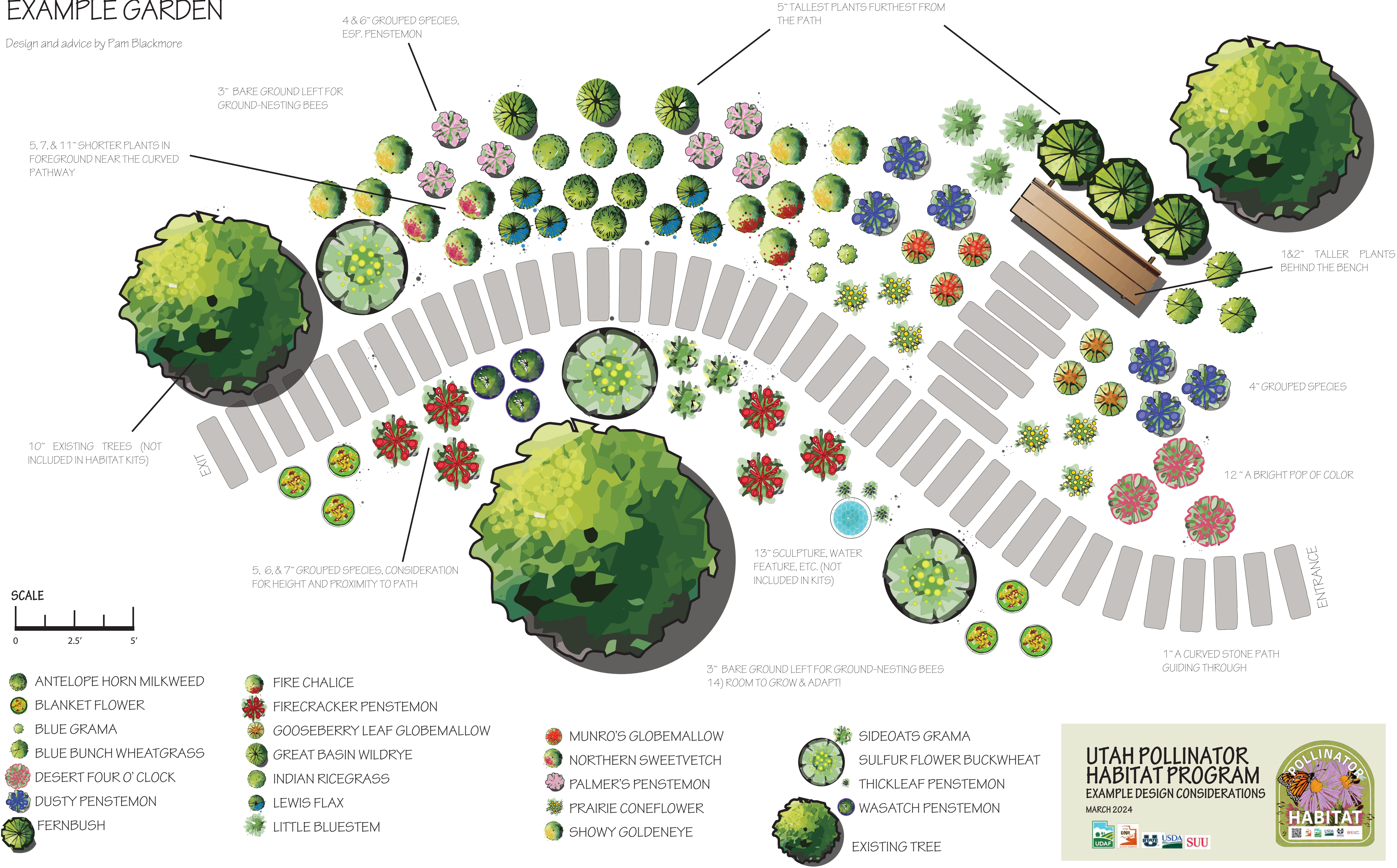
Design Considerations for this Plan

No hard rules, just ideas to think about when you're designing your space.

- 1) Try to create a space you will use, not just a flower bed. For example, include a path through the space so you can walk through and be immersed in what you created. Add a bench to sit and enjoy the bees and butterflies that will come to their new home. It's a good idea, given the climate in Utah, to place your bench in a location that will receive shade when you are likely to use it most.
- 2) Plant taller shrubs behind or next to the bench for privacy. Spending time in your space will make you more aware of changes (weeds popping up!) and make you value it more.
- 3) Leave bare ground with no mulch at the outer edges of your garden. Ground nesting native bees will appreciate it and the bare ground won't be as unsightly if further from the path and out of view.
- 4) Try to group plants of the same species for greater impact and order. Odd numbered groupings are generally more pleasing to the human eye. If it's a plant that's going to grow large, you can use a single plant, but otherwise stick to at least three plants of the same species together.
- 5) Plant the tallest plants to the back of the beds and the shortest plants to the front of the bed. This will ensure tall plants won't block the view to shorter plants.
- 6) Penstemons and other plants with long flower stalks will look more dramatic if clustered as opposed to placed in a line. In other words, the color will be more noticeable and vibrant when they're grouped together.
- 7) Locating plants in the foreground next to your walkway will be more dramatic than planting them away from the walkway. Plus, you'll be able to see the pollinators using them more easily.
- 8) Add symmetry for a more orderly and structured appearance if that is desired. In this plan, the plants are symmetrical when standing at the pathway intersection looking at the bench, as well as at the bend in the path. It doesn't need to be perfectly symmetrical to look good, but considering the visual weight (such as size and growth form) of the plants will help your yard feel more balanced.
- 9) Consider the maximum diameter of plants when choosing how far to space them in your garden. For example, plants that are going to grow much bigger in diameter need to be planted further apart or they will outcompete others planted nearby.
- 10) No need to remove existing trees unless they are invasive. They will provide added habitat structure to your garden. Just plant outside of the tree's dripline so your new plants can obtain the necessary sunlight and nutrients they need to grow. Trees will also provide an overhead plane that makes your space feel more human friendly and intimate. You must remove other ground cover, such as grass and invasives though, or your new plants will have to compete for sunlight and nutrients and will most likely lose the battle.
- 11) Try to reinforce the paths in your garden by mimicking them with your plant layout. For example, the plants in this plan are planted in a curved pattern around the curved path. The path intersection is reinforced with a symmetrical planting and bright pop of yellow. This will help integrate your path into the landscape.
- 12) Consider how your space will be used and where it might be viewed from the most. Then consider how you think the plants can be used to improve that experience. Do you want to block a view? Accentuate a view? Pull people into your space?
- 13) Consider adding a sculptural element for added interest throughout the dormant season when your plants will die back and likely be unappealing.
- 14) Have fun changing things up from year to year! Some plants will thrive, others will die. It's a continual process of seeing what works in your location and adapting what isn't working. Consider breaking apart plants while they're dormant and moving pieces of them to other locations in your yard.
- 15) The larger your habitat, typically the larger variety of pollinators you'll find calling your yard home. Apply for more plants again in subsequent years and grow the size of your habitat.

EXAMPLE GARDEN

Design and advice by Pam Blackmore



UTAH POLLINATOR HABITAT PROGRAM

EXAMPLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

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