

Native Plant Pollinator Garden for the Greenbrier Ranger District

2008 Accomplishments

In 2008 the Greenbrier Ranger District (GBRD) began work on a native plant garden (“Pollination Station”) at the district office in Bartow, WV. District staff, the GBRD’s full-time AmeriCorps Vista volunteer, and nine school and community organizations collaborated with the Dimensions and National Arbor Day Foundations’ Nature Explore Classroom program to design the garden.

The Group designed a combined garden and outdoor classroom that will engage all the senses of visitors while informing them about nonnative invasive plant and vanishing pollinator issues. The garden will feature a stage, an art corner, unstructured play space, and more than 10 percent of the plants native to WV. The space is designed to function with no staffing from the ranger station. Though completion of the garden is probably a year off, school groups and an Elderhostel group have already expressed interest in using the garden for educational and service projects. The GBRD is working toward the Dimensions Foundation’s prestigious Nature Explore certification for the garden.

In conjunction with the WV Natural Heritage Program, we created a handout of showy plants native to the High Alleghenies. Local landowners have been inspired to plant native plants, and one is even considering opening a native plant nursery.

Many partners have contributed to the garden’s establishment: two local businesses contributed time and materials, a community group donated cash, and ten local volunteers who contributed over forty hours to plant hundreds of native plants. Perhaps the most fruitful partnership has been with the USDA/NRCS Appalachian Plant Materials Center, which has donated over \$3,000 worth of plants, over \$600 in materials, wildflower seed, equipment, and many hours of labor. This partnership has expanded into an effort to develop seed stock for future additions to Pollination Station, as well as for ecosystem restoration efforts on the GBRD.



Planned features of Pollination Station's outdoor classroom, as depicted in an artist's rendering. Among the features are a mock tree house, raised beds, Messy Materials area, Art Corner, and performance stage. Pathways meander, and native plants are landscaped & interpreted throughout.

Year Awarded: 2008

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1

FY 08 Funding: \$27,540.00

FY 08 Expenditures: \$27,283.00

Remaining: \$ 257.00

Partners: WVDNR, WV State Parks, USDA-NRCS, Pocahontas and Highland Co. libraries and schools, Upper Pocahontas Community Cooperative, Master Naturalists, Pocahontas Co. CVB, Pocahontas 2020, WVU Extension.

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Monongahela National Forest

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