

# Increasing Plant Diversity on the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

## 2009 Accomplishments

Funding from this award allowed pollinator gardens begun in previous years to be enhanced and expanded. The community-based urban youth group, El Valor, helped install over 1,800 additional native plant plugs at Pollinator Gardens located at MNTP's Iron Bridge Trailhead. This award purchased plants that will increase plant diversity and attract additional pollinators to the garden while providing learning experiences through Midwin's environmental education programs. The children planted native prairie plants such as Purple Prairie Clover, Smooth Blue Aster and Pale Purple Coneflower that will provide a haven for insects.

Funding from this award also helped to increase diversity at Midwin's Seed Production Beds. Seed beds at Midwin provide a crucial seed source used to restore native habitats on the prairie. Funds made it possible to install forty-five additional species of native plants in seed production areas through the work of seasonal crews. Over twenty of the species installed are new to the seed beds. Species planted include Hairy Valerian, Prairie Sundrops, and Vanilla Grass that will be reliable seed production sources in the next few years.

In addition, a new display garden was installed at a Seed Production site. This garden will help educate future visitors on the possibilities of using native plants in their own landscaping.



Children from El Valor enhance a planting with native prairie plugs  
(Photo by FS personnel)



Seasonal crews install new plant species at production beds. (Photo by FS personnel)

Year Awarded: 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

FY09 funding: \$25,000

Expenditures: \$25,000 Plant plugs and Labor

Remaining: \$0

Partners: El Valor and Midwin volunteers

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