

Strengthening Roots with the Community at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

2010 Accomplishments

In 2010, funding from this award allowed enhancement of pollinator gardens and the Monarch Waystation area. El Valor, the nonprofit community-based group, through its Science and Technology Camps for children, planted over 3900 native plant plugs of 37 different species this summer in the gardens. The pollinator gardens, begun through funding from this award in 2007, have substantially increased in size and diversity of plants and insects. Volunteers from El Valor look forward with pride to returning each year to see how the garden has grown. The funding from this award helps to provide experiences to the children of El Valor and teaches them valuable lessons about the importance of native plants in the environment.

This award also contributed to the maintenance of seed production beds at Midewin by providing funding for the Student Temporary Employment Program. Students employed through this program helped maintain and expand native plant production beds at three different sites on Midewin. Through their efforts, 35 additional species were planted in beds, which will provide dependable seed production for use in restoration projects. Funding through this program also made it possible to purchase supplies needed to continue and expand implementation of restoration projects at Midewin. There are currently over 150 species in stages of propagation and production. It is anticipated that Midewin will need to provide reliable production from at least 350 native plant species for long term success.



Children installing native plant plugs under guidance of Forest Service employees. (Photo by El Valor)

Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: 2010

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

FY10 funding: \$ 57,000

Expenditures: \$ 57,000 Plant plugs, Labor and Supplies

Remaining: \$0

Partners: El Valor
Midewin volunteers

Contact: Jennifer Durkin, Botanist and
Eric Ulaszek, Horticulturist
(815) 423-6370



Teamwork by children from the El Valor Camps ensures native plants are successfully planted. (Photo provided by El Valor)



Midewin National
Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S. State Route 53
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 423-6370