

# Partners and Pollinator Gardens on the Shawnee National Forest

## 2010 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2009 to obtain and plant native plant material from local genetic stock from southern Illinois. Seven partners are participating in a Challenge Cost-share Agreement to turn the newly constructed Hidden Springs Ranger District Administrative Site into native plant gardens including a woodland area (Figures 1 and 2). The administrative site will become an educational source for school groups and other visitors.

The purpose of the agreement is to establish environmental education areas on approximately 5 acres at the new Hidden Springs Ranger Station Administrative Site and to establish native trees in the landscape design at four picnic/camping sites on the District. Interpretive signs will identify each native species.

In addition to the two gardens being created at the Hidden Springs Administrative Site, existing pollinator gardens at the two Mississippi Bluffs Administrative Sites and the Johnson Creek Recreation Area were maintained or enhanced.



Figure 2. Vienna students spreading native gravel in front of the new office building where access or weeding becomes a problem.



Figure 1. Vienna students spreading native mulch around transplanted species.

Year Awarded: initial award in 2009

Total Project Value of \$143,351.20 has been planned with partners. Forest Service funding with NFN3 dollars comes to \$14,000.00. During FY10, an additional \$22,000 in salary was used towards pollinator gardens across the Forest. Total becomes \$165,351.20.

Project completion: 2014

Report number: 2

Expenditures: \$22,000

Partners: Partners include Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., Shawnee Audubon Society, Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, Southern Illinois University Restoration Club, Vienna High School, and Anna-Jo Garden Club.

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