

Partners and Pollinator Gardens on the Shawnee National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2009 to obtain and plant native plant material from local genetic stock and add to the pollinator gardens at 3 administrative sites on the District. Seven partners are participating in a Challenge Cost-share Agreement to help the District Office and Work Centers become educational sources for school groups and other visitors.

This years focus was to remove debris and non-native invasive plant species from an adjacent woodland and planning a woodland wildflower trail for visitors. Prior to opening it to the public, native species are being re-introduced through plant rescues and nursery purchases. Species such as Cinnamon Fern, Royal Fern, Maiden Hair Fern, and Rattlesnake plantain have been planted and will be joined by numerous other native woodland species.

Hundreds of plants were put into two gardens at the District Office. Existing pollinator gardens at the two Work Centers and the Johnson Creek Recreation Area were maintained and enhanced. Suet and feeders for birds, including a hummingbird feeder, have become permanent fixtures in the gardens.



Figure 1. In April, Ruth Kelley (Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club) and Melissa Wilson (Shawnee RC&D) took on the tedious task of digging daffodil bulbs that have come up in the pollinator gardens.



Figure 2. November brings the earthy tones of the prairie drop seed and Indian grass into harmony with the bright colored black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower.

Year Awarded: 2011

Total Project Value of \$184,351.20 has been planned with partners. Forest Service funding with NFN3 dollars came to \$14,000.00 in FY09, \$22,000 in FY10 and \$19,000 in FY11.

Project completion: 2014
Report number: 3
Expenditures: \$16,698.00 (FY11)

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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