

Planting for Pollinators at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

2011 Accomplishments Native Plant Materials Program

Funding from this program was used to increase native plant diversity at two sites near existing pollinator gardens. Two groups, the El Valor Science and Technology camp, a nonprofit, community-based youth group, and another partner, the Unitarian Universalist Church group, planted 2000 native plant plugs of 33 different wildflower and grass species this summer. The native plants will provide a long season of bloom for visiting pollinators, from Golden Alexanders in the spring to New England Asters blooming in the fall. Participants from the El Valor camp installed native plant plugs in a wooded area recently cleared of invasive bush honeysuckle. In addition, the Unitarian Universalist camp came to Midewin ready to work one beautiful summer day in August and expanded a native prairie garden through planting species such as Spiderwort, Wild Strawberry and Side Oats Grama Grass.

This award also assisted in providing funding for the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) at Midewin this summer. Several of the projects completed by students employed through this program include rejuvenating a native pollinator garden, controlling invasive species, constructing a raised planting bed for native seed production at the Midewin supervisor's office and monitoring threatened and endangered plant species. The restoration program at Midewin relies on the work accomplished by student employees to further its mission of conserving and enhancing native populations of plants and animals.



Members of the Universalist Unitarian Church camp installing native prairie plants at Midewin.
Photo courtesy of A. Cisneros, Nature Conservancy



Participants from the El Valor camp increasing native plant diversity near the Iron Bridge Trailhead at Midewin. Photo courtesy of El Valor.

Year Awarded: 2011

Project completion: 2011

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

FY10 funding: \$ 21,500

Expenditures: \$ 21,500 Plant plugs and Labor

Remaining: \$0

Partners: El Valor
Universalist Unitarian Church
Midewin volunteers

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