Pollinator gardens were completed in 2014 at the Jonesboro and Vienna Administrative Sites with an emphasis to plant species that encourage monarch butterflies to visit. Hundreds of plants, including numerous milkweeds, were transplanted into our gardens from a Forest Service office that recently closed. Numerous flowering plants were purchased from local nurseries, and hand tools and equipment (mower, weed eater, leaf blower) were also obtained to help with garden and native woodland maintenance. Visits from monarch butterflies have reduced visibly in numbers, but we are hopeful that our additional colorful display and new food sources will once again bring back these rare beauties.

This project is an extension of the “Partners and Pollinator Gardens” educational project that was initiated in 2009 as a Participating Agreement with 7 partners. A bike path was constructed by the city of Vienna that leads riders, walkers, and joggers to our Hidden Springs Administrative Site where they can explore our pollinator gardens. Plants have been labeled so that visitors can recognize different species during any season. A beautiful native sandstone border has been placed around two gardens and “Pollinator Garden” and “Monarch Butterfly” interpretive signs have been erected catching the eye of nearly every visitor.

Year Project Initiated: 2010
Project completion: 2014
Report number: 5 of 5
Expenditures (through 10/2014): $39,638
FY14 funding – NFVW: $1,984


Contact Person & phone number:
E.L. Shimp 618-658-2111