

Native Plant/Pollinator Gardens at Administrative Sites

2008 Accomplishments

As part of the Eastern Region combined project to develop native plant and pollinator gardens at administrative sites, the Ottawa National Forest Botany Program worked on three gardens. At the Bergland Cultural/Heritage Center, a former Ranger Station now operated as a cultural center under partnership, we established an approx. 450 sq. ft. garden. Adjacent to large maple trees, this garden showcases sun and shade-tolerant perennial shrubs, ferns, forbs and grasses. Over 35 species of native plants were seeded or established as transplants. Center volunteers did much of the planting as well as watering, installing edging, mulch, paths, and more.

The second garden will be located at JW Toumey Nursery, co-located on the Ottawa. A stand of red pines and three buildings are being removed and 3+ acres will be converted to native graminoid seed production islands in a matrix of native plantings. Taller shrubs and trees will be used to screen tree production fields from the public view. 2008 work includes some structure removal and contracting preparation of a site design by a landscape architect. Site clearing, plowing, and plug installation will occur in the future; there have been delays in the antecedent project to clear the trees and buildings.

The third site is at the Forest Visitor Center/District office complex. A rain garden is being developed to treat runoff from roofs and pavement. 2008 work includes garden design, species selection, and some seed collection.

Also in 2008, four large signs interpreting pollinator/native plant interactions were obtained along with smaller signs to label native plant species groupings.



Bergland volunteer gardeners and garden after first summer.

Year Awarded: 2008

Project completion: 2009-2010 (varies among three garden sites)

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding \$34,000. In-kind contributions by Bergland volunteers.

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:

Friends of Bergland; Toumey Nursery; Region 9 Technical Services Team; LHB design firm; Northern Native Plantscapes.

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Bergland native plant garden, with volunteer gardeners admiring new bench, birdhouse, and bird bath. Sticks are used to repel deer herbivory on new transplants.



Asclepias syriaca, milkweed, growing at Bergland native plant garden. This plant is a host for monarch butterfly caterpillars.



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