

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District Pollinator Gardens Shawnee National Forest

2009 Accomplishments

Background

As part of an Eastern Region Native Plant Funding proposal, the Shawnee National Forest created native plant pollinator gardens at the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District and the Murphysboro Work Center.

The pollinator gardens were established at the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District Office located in Jonesboro and the Murphysboro Work Center located in Murphysboro. By establishing the gardens at these two locations, it provides access for visitors view native plants and to have information on the importance of using native plants in landscapes.

The pollinator garden located at the Murphysboro Work Center is about 1250 sq ft and includes a small walking trail through the garden (Figures 1 and 2). The pollinator garden located at the District Ranger's office is about 200 sq ft and includes 2 small garden areas near the visitor's entrance. Each area was cleared and prepared for the native gardens by Forest personnel.

25 different wildflower species and six tree or shrub species were planted in the pollinator gardens to attract a mixture of butterflies, birds, and bees. Each species of wildflower, shrub, and tree are labeled and both gardens contain a sign explaining the importance of pollinators. The seeds were obtained from a local seed source and once the gardens are established, seeds will be collected and stored to use on future projects.



Figure 2. Pollinator Garden at Murphysboro Work Center



Figure 1. Smaller Garden at Murphysboro Work Center

Year Awarded: 2009

Project completion: 2009

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

▪FY09 funding: \$6500

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