

Native Plant Materials Program

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Springing into Restoration and Education at the Iron Bridge Trailhead 2014 Accomplishments

For the third consecutive year, the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie hosted "Spring Into the Prairie, a day-long, multi-partner, environmental education and stewardship event at the Iron Bridge trail head and restoration site. During this event, 300 local third and fourth graders learn about local wildlife, protecting our waters, and planting native prairie grasses to improve prairie habitat in an ongoing restoration project, They also learn to be good stewards of the land while having fun recreating with Leave-No-Trace Educators. Students rotated through three different learning activities: Leave No Trace, Protecting Our Waters and Raptors of the Prairie. They also participated in planting approximately 1500 native prairie grass plugs of Prairie Dropseed, Side Oats Grama, Indian Grass, Canada Wild Rye and Cord Grass, grown at the Midwin greenhouse production facilities. This project supports one of the missions of Midwin: enhancing native populations of plants and animals. This 50 acre restoration project has been ongoing since 2009. Many volunteers assist Forest Service staff in conducting this event each year.



Figure 1. Students planting prairie grasses.
Photo courtesy of Forest Service staff.



Figure 2. Raptors of the Prairie demonstration, 2014, Iron Bridge site at Midwin.
Photo courtesy of Forest Service staff

Year Project Initiated: Iron Bridge Restoration Project - 2009; Spring Into the Prairie - 2012.

Project completion: Continues into the future.

Report number: 1 (FY 2014)

Expenditures: Spring into the Prairie: \$5,000

FY14 funding: Iron Bridge Restoration: NFWW, NFWF, PIPI

Main Partners: Spring into the Prairie: Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago; The Nature Conservancy, Leave-no-Trace; Midwin Alliance; Midwin Interpretive Association; International Heritage Conservancy

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