

Aldo Leopold Native Pollinator Project

FY-08 Accomplishments

The 2008 Pollinator project funds enabled the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center to establish pollinator rain gardens to show people what they can do with native plants and rainwater. The pollinator rain gardens are located at the Aldo Leopold Land Stewardship Trailhead and serve as a model to help area landowners and visitors with the comfort level they need to enhance their own backyards. Additionally, the rain gardens capture runoff from the Visitor Center parking lot and demonstrate how native vegetation can be attractive yet functional.

A self-guided garden tour and botanical markers provide natural history information and serve visitors throughout the year when program staff are not available. Furthermore, a native garden packet serves as a take-home piece to landowners planning guidelines and suggestions to establish native pollinator and rain gardens in their own backyards. The Center staff offer a native garden tour each summer and additionally use the gardens as part of our 5-6th grade habitat rehab hands-on experiential education programming. The pollinator gardens also provide an excellent viewing opportunity with 151,000 visitors to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Native growers supplied plant stock germinated from local genotypes seed, well-adapted to the Lake Superior climate. Featured species include: swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, calico aster, pearly everlasting, purple-stemmed aster, flat top aster, white turtlehead, Joe pye weed, boneset, sneezeweed, St. John's wort, northern blue flag iris, monkey flower, wild golden-glow, purple meadow rue, blue vervain, rattlesnake grass, mannagrass, soft rush, woolgrass, fringed sedge, blue joint grass and fox sedge.

Aldo Leopold Land Stewardship Trail pollinator rain gardens in bloom.



Additional fabric matting, black dirt, and mulch are stockpiled for expansion in subsequent years with the assistance of local volunteers, YCC and area middle school students. Northland College students will assist with seed collection and processing.



National Park Volunteers Lori and Marv Clark (left) and Certified Master Gardener Maureen Dodge (right) assist with pollinator rain garden maintenance.

Year Awarded: 2008

Project Completion: 2008

Report Number: 1

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$4,000 for black dirt, fabric matting, mulch, plant materials and Name Stake botanical markers
- Remaining: \$0

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Youth Conservation Corps (YCC); U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Northland College and Wildflower Woods

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Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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