

# Plant native wildflowers, shrubs and trees to help make Bemidji a bird and pollinator-friendly community

Birds, bees, and butterflies have several things in common – they all depend on native plants; they play an important role in pollination; and all face increasing pressures from loss of habitat, diseases, and non-native invasive competitors. But there are things we can do to help! One of the most important is to add native plants to our gardens and landscapes.

The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Bemidji Monarch Project committee and several other local organizations are joining together in a campaign to promote the planting of native trees, shrubs, and flowers to benefit birds and pollinators in our community. We are calling it: *Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Bemidji.* By planting a native plant garden, or just adding native species to your existing landscape, you can attract colorful birds and pollinators to your yard or business.

#### What is Happening?

- Bemidji residents and visitors will see "Birds, Bees, & Butterflies Bemidji" signs in bird and pollinator-friendly plantings around town.
  - The Bemidji Downtown Alliance will promote planting native wildflowers and shrubs to their 'Adopt-A-Planter' sponsors and provide them signs to display in the planters.
  - Local businesses who already use native plants in their landscaping will be contacted to see if they want to display a sign in their gardens.
  - Bemidji State University, the City of Bemidji, MN Department of Natural Resources and other public agencies will display signs in their current or planned native plantings.
  - Demonstration bird and pollinator garden sites planned for this summer by the Mississippi Headwater Audubon Society and City of Bemidji Monarch Committee will display the signs.
- Local garden centers will highlight native bird and pollinator plants they offer with "Birds, Bees, & Butterflies Bemidji" signs; and provide a brochure to interested customers.
- People will find information on planting native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs in the Bemidji area through participating garden centers, businesses, local media outlets, events, community organization websites, and social media.

#### Birds, Bees, & Butterflies - Bemidji materials

Participating businesses, nurseries and gardeners will receive a corrugated plastic sign with stand for use in plantings which feature native wildflowers and shrubs. Paper copies of these signs are also available for displays, bulletin boards or other displays.





Large format (~8" X 10")

Small format (~4"X6")

We have also printed a brochure about planting native species for birds and pollinators.





This is a list of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in the Bemidji area which are particularly beneficial to birds and pollinators.



## Native<sup>(1)</sup> trees, shrubs and wildflowers to plant for birds and pollinators in the Bemidji area.

Click on picture for plant details	Scientific name	Common name	Form	Habitat	Exposure	Height (feet)	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Pollin- ator (3)	Bird (3)
*	Acer negundo	Box elder	Т	upland moist	full sun, partial sun	40.0 - 60.0	1	-		
*	Acer rubrum	Red maple	Т	transitional, upland moist	full sun, partial sun, full shade	40.0 - 60.0	(m)		HHTS, UMN	AUD
*	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	Т	transitional, upland moist	full sun, partial sun	75.0 - 100.0	1			AUD

### Current Project Sponsors

- Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society
- Bemidji Park and Recreation Department
- Bemidji Garden Club
- Bogs & Logs Chapter of Minnesota Master Naturalists
- Bemidji State University Sustainability Office
- Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership-University of MN Extension
- Minnesota GreenCorps
- Bemidji Downtown Alliance
- Bemidji Garden Centers (Nature's Edge Garden Center, Hills Country Greenhouse, Deer Haven Greenhouse, Cenex Country Store, Ace on the Lake Hardware)