



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 have joined 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.**
 - **Establish 3-4 new bird and pollinator-friendly 'demonstration' plantings**
Candidate sites include the Bemidji Middle School, new downtown Watermark Art Center, Sanford Cancer Center's meditation garden, & Bemidji City Hall.
 - **Sign existing bird & pollinator-friendly plantings.** 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.
 - 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 garden centers will highlight native bird and pollinator plants they offer with *"Birds, Bees, & Butterflies - Bemidji"* signs; and provide a brochure to interested customers.**
- 🍃 **Top Ten' campaign**
 - Adopt a 2018 'Top 10' list of native plants. Promote through local nurseries and garden centers, Garden Club annual plant sale, City 'Adopt-a-planter' program, and signage throughout town.
 - Community-wide 'Top 10' promotion event June 16-17 (Father's Day weekend)

Two community celebrations

- Bemidji Bird City Festival (June 30th). 2nd Annual Monarch Festival (August TBD)

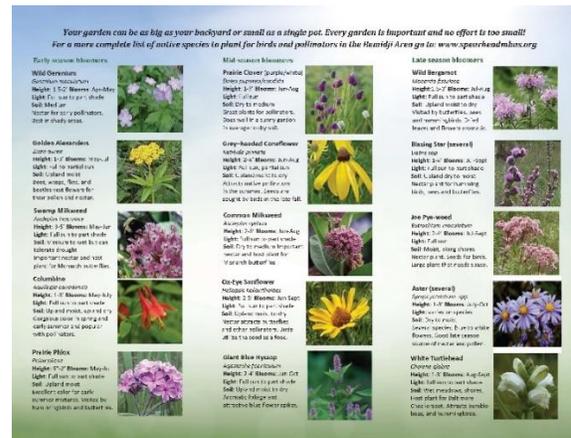
Workshops, Education activities

- Community-wide “How to Get Started with Native Plants” workshop for homeowners.
- Downtown Box Lunch workshop for Adopt-a-Planter hosts
- K-12 activities for sites with school plantings: Provide Audubon Adventures “Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees” kits to K-5 schools with native plant gardens. Host “Flying Wild” workshop for Middle School educators.

Outreach: Provide information on planting native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs in the Bemidji area through newspaper articles, local media outlets, events, community organization websites, and social media.

Prepare brochures, flyer, website with localized information

- 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 trees, shrubs and wildflowers to plant for birds and pollinators in the Bemidji area.

Click on picture for plant details [2]	Scientific name	Common name	Form	Habitat	Exposure	Height (feet)	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Pollinator [3]	Bird [3]
	Acer negundo	Box elder	T	upland moist	full sun, partial sun	40.0 - 60.0	--	--		
	Acer rubrum	Red maple	T	transitional, upland moist	full sun, partial sun, full shade	40.0 - 60.0	--	--	HHTS, UMN	AUD
	Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	T	transitional, upland moist	full sun, partial sun	75.0 - 100.0	--	--		AUD

Current Project Sponsors: Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Bemidji Park and Recreation Department, Bemidji Garden Club, Bogs & Logs Chapter of Minnesota Master Naturalists, Beltrami Co Master Gardeners, Bemidji State University Sustainability Office, 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