



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

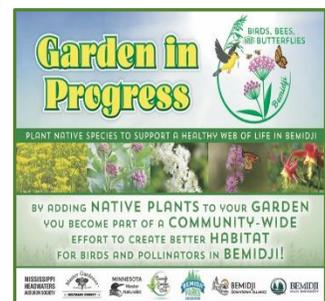
Birds, bees, and butterflies have several things in common – they all depend on native plants; they play an important role in pollination; and all face increasing pressures from loss of habitat, diseases, and non-native invasive competitors. **But there are things we can do to help! One of the most important 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 Are We Doing in 2019?

Native Plant Demonstration Projects.

- **New bird and pollinator-friendly demonstration plantings** planned for public spaces: Bemidji City Hall, Beltrami County History Center, Conifer Villas housing project, the 'Oasis' mini-park next to Bemidji Lakeview Liquor, Bemidji State University campus, Neilson Spearhead Center & Preserve, Bemidji Slough WMA, The Farm (Bemidji Foodshelf), Cass Lake/Bena Middle School.
- **You can see additional *Birds, Bees & Butterflies – Bemidji* plantings** established the last couple years at the Bemidji Library, Watermark Art Center, Bemidji State University, North County City Park, Lincoln Elementary School, Middle School, Leech Lake Tribal College Library, Headwaters Music and Art, Rail River Folk School, and the sidewalk planter on 4th Street and Bemidji Ave. These will give you an idea of what to expect from our new projects.
- **Local businesses, residents, and government offices** who use native plants in their landscaping also display signs in their gardens. These include Northern Dental, Lake Bemidji State Park, Bemidji Tourism Information Center, Cameron Park, Bemidji Garden Club member gardens, and more...
- 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.



Look for *'Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Bemidji'* signs in bird and pollinator-friendly plantings around town

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, MN Department of Natural Resources, Bemidji Garden Centers (Nature's Edge Garden Center, Hills Country Greenhouse, Ace on the Lake Hardware)

2019 'Top Ten' Native Plants campaign

- *Birds Bees & Butterflies – Bemidji* selected ten local native plants important to birds and pollinators to highlight in 2019. They include 5 species for sunny sites and 5 shade tolerant species. Each group includes an early season, mid-season, and late season blooming wildflower, a native grass and woody shrub.
- Local garden centers are featuring these Top Ten plants and will highlight additional native plants they offer with *Birds, Bees, & Butterflies - Bemidji* signs. Stop in and see them at Hills Country Greenhouse, Nature's Edge Garden Center, and Ace on the Lake Hardware.
- Join us in a community-wide **'Top 10' promotion event June 15-16** (Father's Day weekend). Visit participating garden centers for presentations on native plants, pollinators, landscaping for wildlife, discounts on native plants, prize drawings and more.



Two Community Celebrations

- Bemidji Bird City/Bald Eagle Day Celebration (June 22nd).
- Third Annual Monarch Festival (September 7th)

Workshops and Outreach Activities

- How to Get Started with Native Plants workshop and planting event at the Beltrami County History Center (June 19th).
- Get Outdoors! Using newly purchased field guides, binoculars, and other materials, trained Bemidji Parks and Recreation staff and local experts will engage youth and families in outdoor nature exploration and science activities. Join us for one of our fun programs- afterschool *Nature Club*, *Kids in Motion Day Camp* (a 10 week summer program), adult *Walking Club* (bird and native plant hikes) and family *Outdoor Exploration Club*
- 'Celebrate Bemidji Wildflowers' Increase visibility and visitor awareness of our initiative with attractive banners featuring native wildflowers on downtown light posts.
- New Interpretive Signs will be posted at *Birds, Bees and Butterflies – Bemidji* plantings to help people learn about native plants and their importance to birds, pollinators and people!
- Ojibwe Language Project New signs, flyers, and banners will include Ojibwe plant names and uses in respect of their knowledge and understanding of these species.

Localized Information

- Visit our webpage for more information about native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in the Bemidji area beneficial to birds and pollinators:

<http://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees>