

Project Number: 012-135

Recipient: Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

Award Amount: \$33,601

Total Project Costs: \$76,239.51 (estimate to date)

Total OHF Funds Received: \$33,124.20 (including this Status Report No. 3)

Goals of Project:

The project goals have been consistent throughout the duration.

We intended to make useable an area within an existing urban park which was formerly vacant and non-productive. Photos illustrate the project as one of education, enjoyment, relaxation and productivity.

1. Through development it was our intent to create an attractive, educational and productive area for the public. The project becomes more attractive as the plants mature, and there have been small groups that have benefited from the opportunity to observe and assist in correct methods of planting. These reasons and the maturing of the produce make the project a success.
2. We planned to increase the diversity of tree and shrub plantings and wildlife habitat in an existing urban park. (see plant list)
3. It was part of our goal(s) to create a setting for public education through community involvement and interaction with the process. This will become more evident with workshops, tours, and social media exposure.
4. As a by-product of plant diversity, it is our goal to harvest the varied produce for distribution. (the method of product distribution is yet to be determined)

Work Accomplished:

The site soil was tested, amended and graded to a slight slope. An underground irrigation system with flexible quick couples was installed. Hydro-mulch grass was planted and has grown well. A black vinyl-coated 8' high wire fence was installed around the entire site with 1-4' wide pedestrian gate and 3- 8' wide service gates. Planting beds as shown on the master plan were tilled, and landscape "bullet" edging was placed around all beds. An aggregate-surfaced pathway was installed as shown on the master plan and compacted over landscape fabric. The pathway surface material was so successful and attractive that the Society also added it to pathways in other gardens. Planting was completed, including pollinator beds, and mulch is being placed. Weeding and watering continue on a regular pace. Signage has been acquired and installed. A handout has been reproduced. (Sample enclosed) One on-site public event was held. Benches, a table and chairs have been installed along the pathway. An open visitor's pergola with kiwi planting is to be built this summer.

Project Results:

Interest in the project is growing and we are experiencing increased public visitation and requests for group tours. As we begin to publicize the site and as the plant material matures there will be increased curiosity and participation by the public. Small amounts of produce, (berries, etc.) are beginning to show, and plans will be made for distribution.

Value to North Dakota:

We have no facts to confirm this, but we believe in this one area we have assembled the largest variety of fruit, nut and berry plants in the State. This will give the visiting and online public an opportunity to witness our success in pollinator gardens (3), growing produce with diverse plants, creating an attractive park with rest areas, and an opportunity to learn from our successes and failures. The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society is committed to maintaining this site in a manner equal to our present and future gardens.

The Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society expresses its appreciation for funding from the Outdoor Heritage Funds which have contributed to making this project a success.