

Signage for a Roadside Native Grassland Restoration Project - located in Camrose County

A big thank-you to the Alberta Native Plant Council for your contribution to our project!

Project Observations:

- The site information signage was installed in July, thanks to funding from the Alberta Native Plant Council (ANPC). These signs are not only informative for curious onlookers but also provide identification and protection for the site.
- We believe we did a very good job of controlling the weeds in 2021. However, the labour required was somewhat overwhelming for our small group. We have a core group of three with three others helping on occasion. Over 240 volunteer hours were logged working in the 1.5 mile long ditch from July - October, 2021.
- We are maintaining a written inventory of weeds that we were able to identify. Knowing what weeds are present helps us target our weed control measures.
- The four native grass species seeded in the fall of 2020 have taken very well. The Blue Grama grass seemed to do very well in the dryer conditions.
- We have had site visits from County Administration, the Edmonton Native Plant Society (ENPS), an Environmental Studies student from the University of Alberta Augustana Campus as well as interested neighbours and friends. Additional site visits will be encouraged in 2022.
- Although we are a small, informal group of community volunteers, our intention is to make a strong case for the use of native plants, including those supporting pollinators, along Alberta's roadsides. We hope a successful demonstration site will create interest among local municipalities to learn more about the integration of ecological priorities into roadside management practices. Of course, our immediate focus remains on the roadside itself. We are progressing from not knowing what we don't know to beginning to know what we don't know and seeking out reliable sources for answers. 😊

- From January to March of 2022, we will continue to exchange ideas with other interested individuals and organizations and also clarify our intentions and plans for 2022.
- As the native plants at the site mature, we hope the awareness and interest in this demonstration site will continue to grow.

2021 Timeline:

February 24, 2021 – Application for funding presented to ANPC under the Small Grant Program.

April 30, 2021 – Received notification that the grant was approved and signs ordered from CJ's Signs in Camrose.

May 17, 2021 – Funds in the amount of \$678.98 received from ANPC.

July 18, 2021 – Signs installed.

July 2021 – The Edmonton Native Plant Society made a generous contribution of native plant plugs for planting in the roadside ditch.

July to October, 2021 – Boots-on-the-ground by volunteers providing weed control. Over 240 volunteer hours were logged during this time. The weed control for the most part included hand-pulling and spot mowing. We also did some weed-eating and spot-spraying (Canada Thistle patches only).

September 6 - 8, 2021 – Prepared 13 plant beds and planted approximately 140 native plant plugs (27 species). Plant plugs provided by ENPS.

August to October, 2021 – Harvested native seeds from the Brenlea Farm native plant nursery. This is an ongoing process as native plants mature progressively through the growing season. On October 28, 2021, our final task of the season was to hand spread a collection of these seeds into the roadside ditch.

Report submitted by:

Brenda Bohmer
Community Volunteer
Roadside Native Grassland Restoration Project
Camrose County, AB