
Name of Organization: Northland College

Type of Organization: College or University

Contact Information: Mr. Mike Gardner

Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute

1411 Ellis Avenue

Ashland WI 54806

Phone: (715) 682 - 1481 **Extension:**

Fax: (715) 682 - 1218

E-Mail: mgardner@northland.edu

Project Title: Northern Forest Native Plant Propagation and Restoration

Project Category: Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 1

Total Funding Requested (\$): 163,450 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College is initiating a program to support native plant restoration in the north woods and supply landowners with information and assistance in implementing restoration efforts on their properties. This project sets the stage for the Institute's larger restoration activities that will extend beyond the two-year initial proposal. Outcomes include a native plant survey to identify species appropriate for north woods restorations, development of an on-campus propagation facility for studying and growing native shrub and ground layer species; and a brochure that will provide information and guidelines for naturalizing northern landscapes. In carrying out this project, we will be mobilizing a network of volunteers and establishing a framework for collaboration among private, tribal, local, state, and federal groups involved in restoration. With these tools in place the Institute can more effectively fulfill its role as a resource for land managers and others working "to protect and preserve our homeland in the north."

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

Lakes:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Geographic Initiatives:

- | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Primary Affected Area of Concern:

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Bad River Watershed/Bayfield Peninsula

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Restoration and landscaping with native plants is becoming an increasingly popular concept. As a result, many nurseries now carry native plants, either as potted plants, plugs, or as seeds. Both urban and rural landowners are landscaping with native plants, and more and more lawns are being transformed into naturalized ecosystems. This trend benefits the environment and educates landowners about our natural environment, bringing them closer to the historical ecosystems of their region. In our northern region, however, relatively little is known about the propagation and growth of our northern forest species and few of our northern understory herbs and shrubs are commercially available. We propose to support forest restoration efforts in our region by: Identifying native species appropriate for restoration use, developing propagation techniques for those species, and sharing this information with landowners, agencies and private plant nurseries.

Proposed Work Outcome:

Part 1. Survey of northern mesic hardwoods and boreal forests of the North Central Forest and Lake Superior Coastal Plain. The objective of the plant survey is to collect the baseline data needed to support restoration efforts. The survey will fill in gaps in existing plant inventory information and the data will be used to develop a list of species appropriate for restoration in Lake Superior's northern mesic hardwood and boreal forest habitats. From this plant list, we will identify target species for propagation studies.

Part 2. Habitat studies of target species. We propose to collect target species (vegetative material and seeds) from natural habitats for propagation purposes. Simultaneously, we plan to collaborate on research to better understand the impacts on transplanting from native habitats for restoration purposes.

Part 3. Native plant propagation facility at Northland College. The goals of this activity are:

- 1) To develop propagation techniques for common native species which are not currently produced commercially. The information will be shared with commercial, local nurseries.
- 2) To expand our knowledge of regeneration and growth requirements of northern mesic and boreal forest species.
- 3) To provide locally grown native plants for demonstration plots in the region and on the Northland College campus.
- 4) To assist landowners, schools, public agencies and tribal agencies with their restorations.

Part 4. Northern Forest restoration brochure. This brochure will be written for the general public, with three primary objectives:

- 1) To convey the importance of native plant species and generate interest in restoration,
- 2) to provide general guidelines for restoration efforts,
- 3) to initiate a volunteer network coordinated at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute to assist with restoration efforts

within the community and development of demonstration plots.

| Project Milestones: | Dates: |
|--|---------------|
| Superior Coastal Plain Survey complete | 10/2000 |
| Year 1 collection of seeds and plants | 11/2000 |
| Propagation site preparation complete | 11/2000 |
| Brochure available to public | 07/2001 |
| Demonstration plots in place | 10/2001 |
| Workshops for agencies and nurseries | 10/2001 |
| Research on transplanting complete | 07/2002 |
| Project End | 07/2002 |

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The project will address education and outreach in the following ways:

- 1) the Northern Forest restoration brochure will be prepared and distributed to the general public through all outreach efforts of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute to include direct mail, web site, conferences, meeting and public presentations.
- 2) Regular meetings of the listed collaborators will continue to provide a mechanism for them to incorporate data, brochures and techniques into their outreach efforts and technical assistance.
- 3) The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute will convene a conference on northern forest restoration for landowners, agencies, schools, and citizen groups.
- 4) Regional school districts will be provided information and technical assistance in schoolyard restoration projects.
- 4) Regional commercial nurseries will be provided propagation technique information .
- 5) Public tours of demonstration plots, growing facilities and urban landscaping demonstrations will be offered.

Project Budget:

| | Federal Share Requested (\$) | Applicant's Share (\$) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Personnel: | 29,360 | 40,000 |
| Fringe: | 7,340 | 20,000 |
| Travel: | 2,400 | 3,000 |
| Equipment: | 15,000 | 0 |
| Supplies: | 4,300 | 30,000 |
| Contracts: | 33,000 | 0 |
| Construction: | 0 | 0 |
| Other: | 39,360 | 8,000 |
| Total Direct Costs: | 130,760 | 101,000 |
| Indirect Costs: | 32,690 | 0 |
| Total: | 163,450 | 101,000 |
| Projected Income: | 0 | 0 |

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

Private donations : \$200,000 has been pledged over a four year period. \$101,000 available during project period.
Ongoing fundraising will occur through donations and grants.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

US Forest Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Wisconsin Department Of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin Ashland Agricultural Research Center
Private commercial nurseries
Great lakes Gas Company
Bay City Creek Task Force