

Prairie and Pollinator Garden

Tom and Jane Toleno

Native Plantings

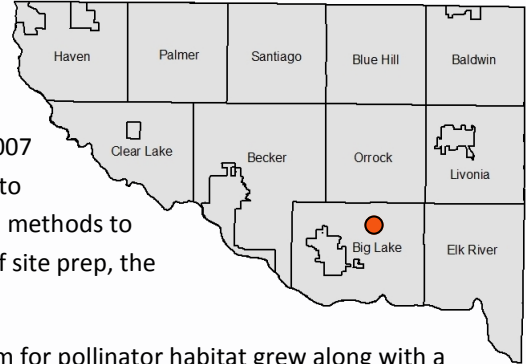


Project Summary

The Sherburne SWCD worked closely with these passionate landowners to restore 3.5 acres of native tall grass prairie with a high diversity of forbs. Work began in 2007 to prepare the site. Heavy soil on the site made thorough site preparation crucial to establishment success. The Toleno’s alternated between mechanical and chemical methods to ready the ground for the precious seed. In the spring of 2008, after a final round of site prep, the prairie was planted to a mix of 7 grasses, 16 forbs and 2 woody species.

As early succession prairie species started to show face the landowner’s enthusiasm for pollinator habitat grew along with a desire to increase awareness; which prompted the pollinator garden project. This aspiration blossomed into a 4,000 square foot garden that was planted in 2009. The planting of the garden happened in conjunction with a youth education effort. Area youth participated by researching a prairie plant and creating an art project around their chosen plant. On planting day the youth displayed their projects in front of KARE 11’s camera. This was followed by a group planting effort that involved all ages. Through KARE 11’s support the landowners were able to promote awareness and communicate the importance of creating pollinator habitat by telling their story.

Since 2009, the landowners have continued to maintain their projects through prescribed burning, chemical spot applications and over seeding of more forbs following a burn.



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Just a few of the many native flowers and grasses in bloom mid summer of 2011

Project Details	Project Funding	Project Partners
Year Installed2007	Initial Seed Cost \$5,343	Sherburne SWCD
Area 3.5 Acres	Enhancement Forb Seed\$563.45	Tom & Jane Toleno
Garden Size4,000 sq. ft.	Garden Materials Cost.....\$594.24	

Toleno Prairie and Pollinator Garden



Tom & Jane Toleno with Dogs: Sonny, Dana and Pixie in front of their pollinator haven



KARE 11 filming youth pollinator garden planting in 2009



Prescribed Burn 2010



Sherburne SWCD
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The Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to working directly with landowners and agencies in order to promote the wise and sustainable use of our land and water related resources to educate and inform the public about these uses; to help solve the resource problems within the District and to serve as a county wide natural resource information and referral center.

Celebrating 70 years of conservation!