

Outgoing Fellow Project Recap

Before the arrival of each new Fellow, we have the bittersweet task of saying goodbye to an outgoing Fellow. Earlier this year we said farewell to Nicki Achor, who joined our horticulture team in the summer of 2021. Upon arriving at Jenkins, Nicki quickly developed a deep interest in native plants and pollinators, which led her to complete a pollinator garden redesign in the Upper Wildflower Garden as her Fellow Project.

When Nicki began her project, the Upper Wildflower Garden was a mixture of slow-growing shrubs and aggressive perennials growing together and blocking the view of the pond. One of the first steps for her project was to transplant the large woody plants to other parts of the garden. She then delved into researching the best pollinator plants for the conditions of this site. As her design came together, she and the horticulture staff worked to prepare the site for planting. Over the course of three volunteer days, Nicki saw her design come to life, with over 1,153 plants put into the Upper Wildflower Garden.

Nicki's extensive research and design of this garden will allow it to highlight pollinator plants with high quality pollen and nectar and feature extended bloom times to attract the most pollinators, all the while keeping the view to the pond open. We are all looking forward to the display of blooms throughout the season and can't wait to see the pollinators that visit this redesigned garden.

Although Nicki is continuing to develop her horticultural skills in Chicago, she plans to come back and visit the garden in bloom. We are all wishing her the best with this next stage of her career!



3200
total square feet

14.
different
plant families

21.
new species added
to the collection

46 different
plants in
design

24 vs. **22**
species cultivars

1153.
plants total

7
yards of soil
amendments
added

308
total staff &
volunteer hours
of planting

AUGUST 2021

Mapping of garden bed complete

OCTOBER 2021

Transplanting of desired plants—saving, selling, and donating plants

FEBRUARY 2022

Researched and compiled new plant list

APRIL 2022

New design complete

JULY 2022

Plants delivered and potted up in nursery until fall planting

AUGUST 2022

Garden bed preparation—added soil and amendments

SEPTEMBER 2022

Planting days with staff & volunteers