

# Natural Connections Program

## Native Plants From Seed

### Glen Morris Back Yard Prairie Project

Sept-06



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Healthy plant and wildlife populations require healthy habitats. The Natural Connections Program is helping private landowners and agencies create tallgrass prairie and oak habitats throughout Brant County.

Brant's sand plain and gravel moraines are unique habitats that support unique species and varieties of plants.

Brant's native plant species have evolved over millennia to be specially adapted to local climate and sites—a process of Natural Selection. This means that Seed Source Matters—to the success of any planting project! A priority of the native plants from seed program is promote the use of local and native plants and seeds in gardens and habitat creation projects.

Financial support of the project was provided by The National Wild Turkey Federation.

The Natural Connections Program is funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Natural Connections Program worked with a landowner in the Glen Morris area to complete the conversion of a backyard from a lawn to a tallgrass prairie.

The program coordinator toured one of the landowners around showing them prairie plants at the gardens in King William park and a natural prairie at the Dickson Nature Sanctuary, just down the road from their home.

Finally they put them in touch with a private company, called Nith River Native Plants, which provided support to the landowner in picking out plants and establishing a layout. All of the plants chosen by the landowner are indigenous to Brant County, with the majority occurring or known to have occurred within 2.5 kilometers of the property.

In June the 2500 square meter prairie was planted. Over 1000 plants were installed into several cubic yards of spread mulch (pictured to the right). By September the plants were flourishing, and most flowered that year (pictured below).



The garden features native tallgrass prairie plants that will be a source of beauty to the property. As well the plants will nurture many forms of wildlife from small insects, including butterflies, to birds from sparrows to wild turkeys.

There will be less pollution from mowing the grass, and the prairie plants will recycle carbon from the atmosphere, reducing the environmental footprint of the landowner.

Some of the plants used in the prairie garden were:

Butterfly Milkweed	Cylindrical Blazingstar
Showy Tick Trefoil	Stiff Goldenrod
Little Bluestem Grass	Side Oats Gramma Grass
Canada Wild Rye	Switch Grass
Hoary Vervain	Thimbleweed
Pussytoes	Sky Blue Aster
New Jersey Tea	Dwarf Chinquapin Oak
Wild Bergamot	Harebell
Heath Aster	Prairie Dropseed Grass