

SP0148 Thomson House Pollinator Plantings

Final Report

11/09/2015

Our work on this simple project has nearly come to a close. The plants are rooting and establishing. It has been exciting to see them begin to bloom. Maintenance of the plants will continue through to the end of the season. At that point the annual cucumber plants will be removed. The project was successful in increasing the number of pollinator supporting plantings on the property. Beyond the plantings initially proposed, as other group members became in contact with the PGSS environment commissioner they were able to secure an additional 300 dollars from PGSS and outside connections to purchase plants. In total, roughly 100 new plants were introduced to the grounds, not including the clover seeded into the lawn. The greatest challenges of the project have come from producing the supporting promotional and analytic material. Unfortunately, the AU Lab at which we were supposed to conduct a pollen analysis stopped conducting such analysis during the course of the project so we were not able to have feedback on the sources of pollen most utilized by the bees. Communication between our team and the Montreal Ecosystems at Your Service blog are moving slowly and we have not yet been able to complete the post we had planned. It has been written and sent to the blog and we are waiting for their response. This process has taken much longer than expected.

The project initiated conversations about landscaping practice conscious of its potential benefits or detriments to pollinators with each of Andrew Pierzchala, the Thomson House business manager, Hugo Laperle, the McGill arborist, several graduate students whom attended the PGSS Green Drinks event in spring, and two volunteers from the Montreal community who helped with planting.

The part of the budget which was initially allocated for transporting the plants (80 CAD) was reallocated to purchase more plants after transportation costs were found cheaper than expected. The entire budget was not used.

As for what is next, we must only wait for the plants to grow. Already they are showing themselves to be self-sufficient as desired. Nominal maintenance will be required in the following years. The anticipated plant database was created electronically and has been sent to both Andre Pierzchala, the Thomson House business manager, as well as the current PGSS environment commissioners. It has been requested that the environment commissioners keep the document within the PGSS files so that future related projects may have it as a reference.

Management of the project has been an excellent opportunity to learn about project management and administration on a small scale. For the most part the project has run smoothly. One challenge has been the delay in meeting targeted deadlines. A frustration with the project has been the quantity of reporting required by SPF for such a small scale project. I would recommend to SPF a reconsideration of the reporting process for such small projects. I have spent more time reporting, photographing, and documenting this project for SPF purposes than I have actually spent planting or tending to the plants. The adoption of a tiered reporting scheme based on the funding allocated may be a solution. That being said, we would like to thank the SPF team for granting our project funding and allowing us to undertake the project. As a whole it has been a wonderful experience which we are grateful for.

Krista Reimer
for the project group

english name	french name	latin name	location	notes
<i>Preexisting plants (prior 2015)</i>				
peppermint	menthe poivrée	mentha piperica	raised beds, North East bed	in photo database
dill	aneth	Anethum graveolens	raised beds, North bed	
wild bergamot		monarda fistulosa	water garden	in photo database
Joe Pye Weed		Eupatorium maculatu	water garden	in photo database
miniature rose cultivar		Rosa cultivar miniatu	water garden	in photo database
Virginia wild mountain mint		pycnanthemum virgin	water garden	non-edible, in photo database
<i>Planted 2015</i>				
white clover	trèfle blanc	Trifolium repens	throughout the lawn	
wild cucumber	concombre grim	Echinocystis lobata	North fence and between ramp and anex	This is an annual which will be pulled at the end of the 2015 growing season, in photo database
Virginia mountain mint	pycnantheme d	Pycnanthemum virgi	between the ramp	non-edible, in photo database
yarrow		Achillea millefolium	beside the patio next to the large tree and ramp	in photo database
Planted in 2015 by Dandelion Collective				
english name	french name	latin name	Quantity	
Aquilegia	Ancolie	Aquilegia vulgaris	10	
Strawberry	Fraise	Fragaria	5	
Chive	Ciboulette	Allium schoenoprasu	2	
Sage	Sauge	Salvia Officinalis	4	
Scarlet bee balm	Monarde	Monarda didyma	10	
Black eyed Susan	Rudbékie	Rudbeckia hirta	4	
Thyme	Thym	Thymus	4	
Lavender	Lavende	Lavandula spica	4	
Anise Hyssop	Agastache	Agastache foeniculu	10	
Sunflower	Tournesol	Helianthus	15	
Common chicory	Chicorée	Cichorium	8	
Oregano	Origan	Origanum vulgare	2	
Common milkweed	Asclépiade	Asclepias syriaca	8	
Blue vervain	Vervaine hastée	Verbena hastata	4	
Aster	Aster	Aster	4	
Golden rod	Verge d'or	Solidago canadensis	10	

For additional information or to access the photo database, please contact Krista Reimer at reim.krista@gmail.com