

6th Street Waterway Improvements

Belvidere's 6th Street Waterway Project transformed an unsightly channel into a beautiful, open space waterway, incorporating both pollinator conservation and climate resiliency concepts. Natural prairie species, butterfly weed plants and nectar-producing blooms now provide a year-round pollinator haven for butterflies, bees and birds while also efficiently managing water runoff and erosion.

This channel is located between 6th Street and Appleton as marked in the following picture.



The following improvements were made:

- Channel regrading of 1.7 acres or 1747 linear feet
- Installation of riprap, weirs, and a sediment basin reduced erosion and improved water management
- Invasive species, such as reed canary grass and willow, were replaced by 109 pounds of seed mix containing 54

species of pollinating and sedge plants and 6,118 sedge plugs of 11 different species

- Creation of an inviting environment for butterflies, bees and birds
- Addition of three educational signs along channel (Coming Spring of 2026!)

Make sure to check out the changes and enjoy some time in nature!

This project was supported by the generous funding from ComEd and Openlands through the ComEd Green Region Grant, and by the City of Belvidere.

Pollinator Conservation Seed Mix:
Species lb/ac

Schizachyrium scoparium (Andropogon s)	Little Bluestem	5.000
Bouteloua curtipendula	Side Oats Gramma	5.000
Elymus canadensis	Nodding Wild Rye	1.000
Sporobolus heterolepis	Northern Dropseed	0.500
Chrysanthemum* maximum	Shasta Daisy*	0.200
Coreopsis lanceolata		0.500
Gaillardia* pulchella*	Annual Indian Blanket*	0.200
Ratibida columnifera	Prairie Coneflower	0.200
Rudbeckia hirta		0.120
Amorpha canescens	Leadplant	0.500
Anemone cylindrica	Thimbleweed	0.500
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterflyweed	0.250
Baptisia leucantha (B alba macrophylla)	White Indigo	0.400
Rudbeckia triloba	SUB for Coreopsis palmata	0.100
Dalea candida (Petalostemum c)	White Prairie Clover	0.500
Dalea purpurea (Petalostemum p)	Purple Prairie Clover	0.500
Drymocallis arguta {Potentilla a}	Prairie Cinquefoil	0.350
Echinacea pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower	0.200
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	0.200
Coreopsis tripteris	SUB for Helianthus mollis Downy Sunflower	0.500
Heliopsis helianthoides	Early Sunflower	0.500
Liatris aspera	Button Blazing Star	0.500
Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie Blazingstar	0.500
Monarda fistulosa	Bergamont	0.200
Oligoneuron rigidum (Solidago r)	Stiff Goldenrod	0.500
Parthenium integrifolium	Wild Quinine	0.500
Physostegia virginiana	False Dragonhead	0.100
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	0.500
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Sweet Coneflower	0.200
Silphium laciniatum	Compass plant	0.500

Silphium terebinthinaceum Prairie Dock 0.500
 Symphyotrichum laeve (Aster l) Smooth Blue Aster 0.500
 Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (Aster n) New England Aster 0.500
 Symphyotrichum oolentangiense (Aster azureus) Sky Blue Aster 0.300
 Tradescantia ohienensis Ohio Spiderwort 0.100
 Veronicastrium virginicum Culvers Physic 0.100
 Triticum aestivum Winter Wheat 60.00

Transition Zone Sedges Seed Mix:

Species lb/ac

Bolboschoenus fluviatilis (Scirpus f) River Bulrush 0.18
 Calamagrostis canadensis Blue Joint Grass 0.72
 Carex molesta SUB for Carex lacustris Common Lake Sedge 0.36
 Carex stipata Awlfruited Sedge 0.36
 Carex shortiana SUB for Carex stricta Strict Sedge 0.36
 Carex vulpinoidea Fox Sedge 0.36
 Eleocharis acicularis Needle Spike Rush 0.18
 Eleocharis palustris SUB for Eleocharis obtusa Blunt Spike Rush 0.18
 Glyceria striata Fowl Manna Grass 0.84
 Juncus effusus Soft Rush 0.36
 Juncus tenuis Slender Rush 0.36
 Juncus torreyi Torreys Rush 0.36
 Leersia oryzoides Rice Cut Grass 0.6
 Schoenoplectus acutus (Scirpus a) Hardstem Bulrush 0.18
 Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani (Scirpus validus) Great Bulrush 0.18
 Scirpus atrovirens Dark Green Rush 0.18
 Spartina pectinata Cord Grass 0.24

Transition Zone Sedges (plugs):

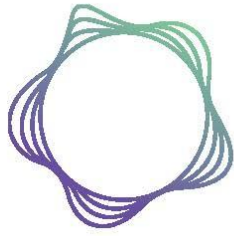
Scientific Name Common Name Quantity plugs

Calamagrostis canadensis Blue Join Grass 532
 Carex stipata Awl Fruited Sedge 532
 Carex stricta Tussocks Sedge 532
 Carex vulpinoidea Brown Fox Sedge 532
 Eleocharis acicularis Spike Rush 532
 Juncus torreyi Torrey's Rush 532
 Leersia oryzoides Rice Cut Grass 532
 Scirpus atrovirens Dark Green Bulrush 532

Wetland Sedges (plugs):

Scientific Name Common Name Quantity plugs

Carex lacustris Common Lake Sedge 380
 Carex stricta Common Tussock Sedge 380
 Juncus effusus Common Rush 380
 Scirpus atrovirens Dark Green Bulrush 342
 Sparganium eurycarpum Great Burr Reed 380



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