



People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance

National Wildlife Federation

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**Baldwin Wallace College
Native Ohio Plant Garden
Berea, OH
(Project Status: Fall 1998)**

Campus Profile

Baldwin-Wallace College is a small private liberal arts college near Cleveland, Ohio. Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA) is the active environmental group on campus. SEA seeks to educate the campus community about various environmental issues by sponsoring speakers and initiating various activities.

Project Summary

The Native Ohio Plant Garden at Baldwin-Wallace College is an area of campus dedicated to the growth of plants that occur naturally throughout the state of Ohio and are not present due to any type of human activity. The garden educates the community of the area's native vegetation and natural history, and provides an example of the benefits of landscaping with native species.

Accomplishments

The garden was established in the spring of 1998.

Strategies and Steps Taken

One of the first steps in creating a garden on a college campus is to get permission to do it. This means convincing administrators and staff that it is a good idea. After some research and contacts to local experts, I came up with an outline including goals, benefits, and plans which was circulated among professors and administrators. With permission to use an area of campus for the project, the next step was preparing the soil for planting. The college grounds crew was quite helpful with providing assistance. Obtaining the actual plants was the easiest part of the project. A local arboretum and botanical garden agreed to donate leftover plants for use in the campus garden. All plants were then planted in just a few hours with the help of student volunteers.

Challenges and Responses

The Native Ohio Plant Garden was received very well by the campus community. From the beginning stages to the final planting, the students and staff were supportive and helpful.

Documentation

A detailed instruction manual was created for use by future care takers of the garden. The manual, along with a research paper on native plants, are available in the Biology Department. Each student care taker will be updating the manual to document changes as the garden grows and changes.

Key Groups/Allies Involved

Students for Environmental Awareness is the primary group responsible for the garden. Biology League also helped with funding and planning. The Biology Department gave permission to use the area adjacent to the greenhouse. All plants were donated either by the Cleveland Botanical Garden or the Holden Arboretum.



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