

WHAT TO EXPECT (FROM A POLLINATOR PROJECT)

A PRESENTATION TO THE MICHIANA BOARD, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

Some other projects as examples...

October 2003



July 2007, 4 years later



September 2003



August 2007



September 2003



August 2007



January 2004



August 2027



2005



2006, looking weedy and sparse one year later, much like the Michiana project. This is why it is SO IMPORTANT to have follow up stewardship.



The Michiana project

August 2022



One year later, October
2023, after spraying and
mowing



August 2024 – yet another mow and spray to continue managing poison hemlock and other invasives, including foxtail grass along the edge with the lawn.



December 2024, this was the culminating event that year, after spending the entire 2024 year on “warranty stewardship” (no charge to the township). 2025 essentially represents a YEAR ONE SEEDING! What we’ve seen on site this year is pretty typical. That being said, the area was seeded back in 2023 and those seeds are still there and working on emerging – in addition to the seeding that occurred in Winter 2024.



2025 in pictures!

May



June – natives emerging



July – looking like it should



July – looking wild and more lush



August, 2025



September



October



THE ISSUES FOR THE MICHIANA PROJECT:

- FOR MANY YEARS IT WAS THE DUMPING GROUND FOR LANDSCAPE WASTE – THIS IS A TYPICAL OCCURRENCE. PIZZO CREW IS “TAKING IT BACK” FROM NEGLECT
- MANY, MANY INVASIVES – MUGWORT, POISON HEMLOCK, TREE OF HEAVEN, GARLIC MUSTARD, MOTHERWORT
- BORDERING A LAWN AREA THAT RECEIVES FERTILIZER TREATMENTS AND OCCASIONAL PRE-EMERGENT WEED TREATMENT
- CHEMICALS FROM PAST DUMPING AND FROM LAWN TREATMENTS – FERTILIZER MIGHT SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA, BUT IT ALSO FEEDS INVASIVE PLANTS. NATIVE PLANTS DO WELL WITH LESS NUTRIENTS IN THE LONG RUN

NEXT STEPS:

- CONTINUE WITH STEWARDSHIP TO HELP THE SEEDING AND PLUGGING ESTABLISH
- STEWARDSHIP FOR MICHIANA MEANS – HERBICIDE TREATMENTS FOR THE INVASIVES, MOWING THE ANNUAL WEEDS, SPREADING SEED EVERY YEAR (COLLECTED FROM THE SITE AND OTHERS IN PIZZO’S PORTFOLIO OF LOCAL PROJECTS)
- RETREATING TREE OF HEAVEN TO PREVENT RE-ESTABLISHMENT
- SOME TRAINING FOR THE MICHIANA CREW FOR ROUTINE CARE OF A NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN!

Keep your friends close but keep your enemies closer!



This is not about making good plants grow – its about making bad plants not grow ©

Good plants grow when bad plants are not present. ©

Root Systems of Midwestern Native Plants with a Turf Comparison

