

Volunteers and members of the Friends of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge began work on a pollinator garden in the fall of 2011. In October of 2011 the gardeners removed brush and mulched the site in preparation for planting. The site was planted on multiple days in the spring of 2012. To date, over 30 species of plants native to Southwest Indiana have been planted in the garden. Amazingly, every plant in the garden was donated from the personal gardens of the Friends and volunteers.

The garden is located at the trailhead of the popular Maxey Birding Trail near Snakey Point Marsh. Over time, the gardeners plan to add hardscape, expand the garden to increase the number of native woodland plants, and erect a sign to help visitors identify plants in the garden and encourage the use of native plants in home gardens. The Friends received a grant from the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society to pay for the materials and design of the informational sign.

<p>Maxey Birding trailhead, October 2011, before work began. (USFWS Photo)</p>	<p>Maxey trailhead, Fall 2011, cleared, mulched, and ready for Spring planting. (USFWS Photo)</p>
	
<p>Volunteers planted the garden in the Spring of 2012. (USFWS Photo)</p>	<p>In May 2012 a Daisy troop (and friends) helped plant native perennials on an environmental education day. (USFWS Photo)</p>
	

The Pollinator garden, two months after the initial planting, on June 6, 2012. Healthy plants beginning to bloom and provide valuable nectar for pollinators. (USFWS Photo)



Black-eyed Susan thrives in the Patoka River NWR Pollinator Garden. (USFWS Photo)

