



Calgary

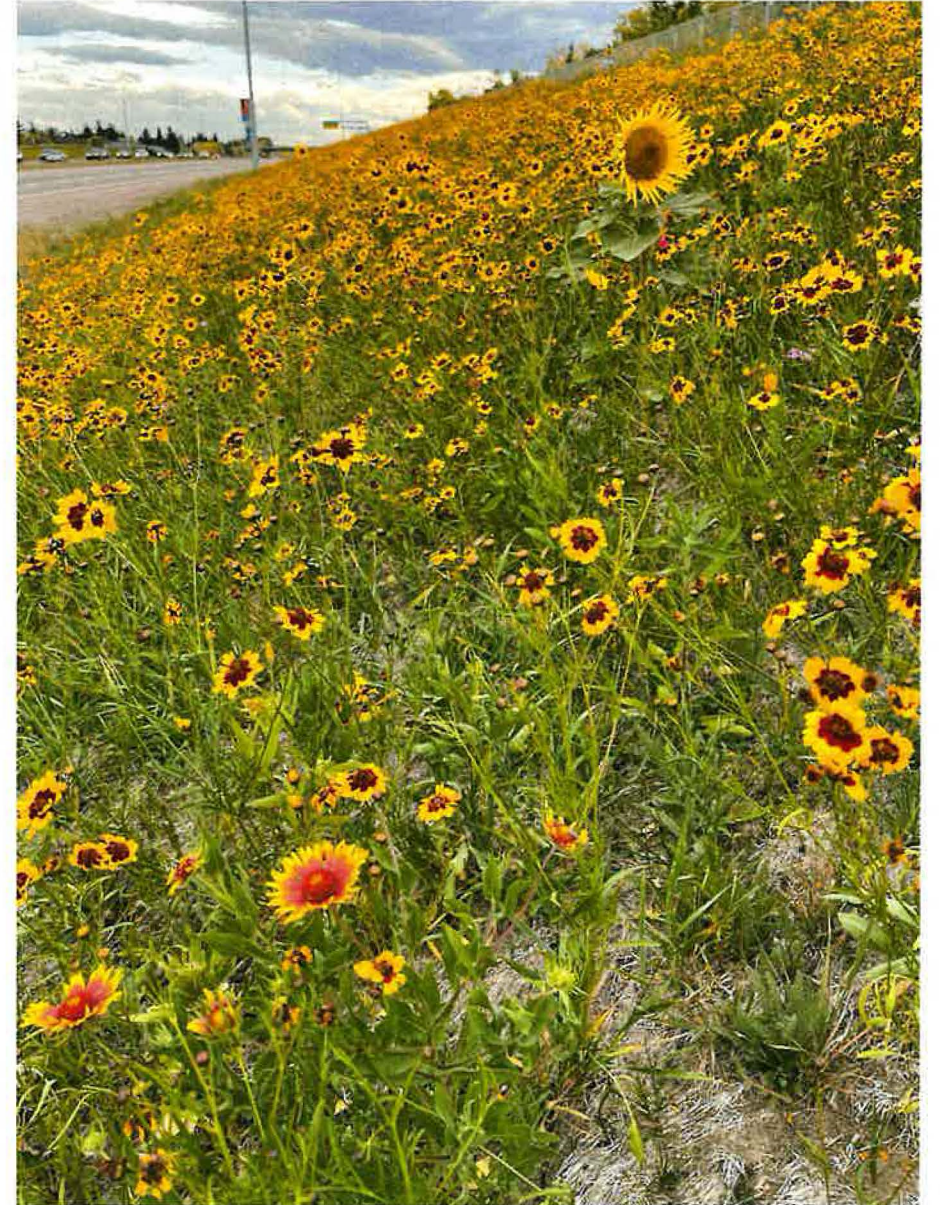


Roadside Naturalization Pilot Project Results



Project Team

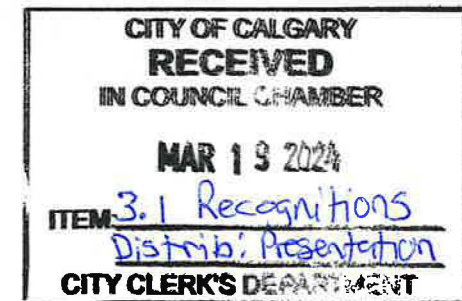
- Ethan Askey, Project Sponsor, Transportation GM's Office, Sustainability Strategy,
- Peter Yee, Project Manager, Transportation Engineer
- Jenna Cross, Parks Ecologist, Urban Conservation
- Jason Weiler, Parks Ecologist, Urban Conservation
- Hank Schleedoorn, Senior Design and Project Technician, Mobility
- Tara Wittenburg, Habitat Restoration Foreman, Integrated Pest Management
- Travis Shaw, Urban Conservation Lead
- Dr Elizabeth Murray, Earthmaster Environmental Strategies
- Kent Cryer, Earthmaster Environmental Strategies
- Dr Mathis Natvik, Natvik Design Inc., University of Calgary
- Gavin Wyman, ISL Engineering Services





Project Objectives

- Naturalize a roadside at a large scale to determine environmental benefits, as well as capital and maintenance costs
- Determine feasibility of a naturalized urban meadow in a roadside context
- Contribute to the goal set out in Our BiodiverCity, the City's biodiversity strategic plan, to **naturalize 20% of municipal open space by 2025**
- Leverage the project to demonstrate naturalization principles to Calgarians to support eco literacy, as outlined in Our BiodiverCity





Establishment Progression



August 27, 2021

Establishment Progression

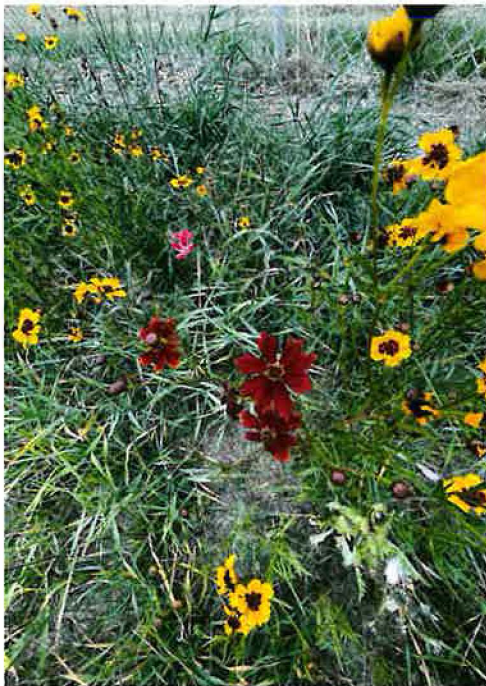


September 2021

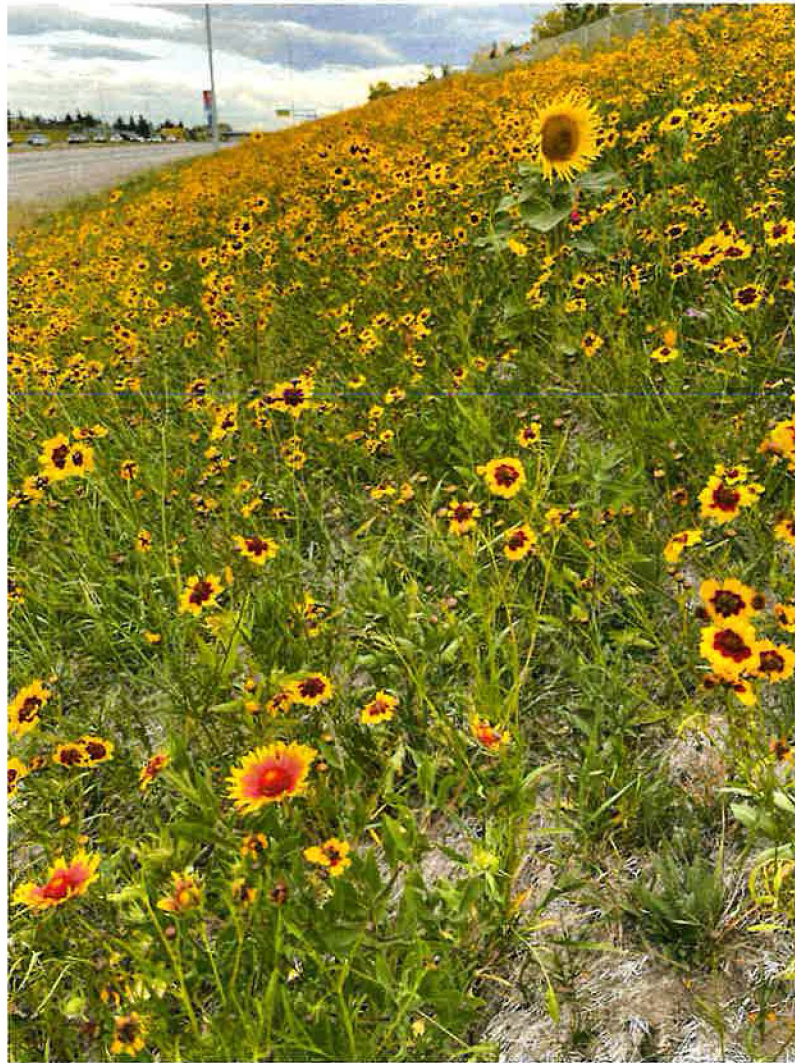


Progression

Median



Showy annuals (September 22, 2021)





Results

- Project was successful in introduction of native plant species
- No watering was required during the project
- Lessons learned regarding plant mix in different locations
- Field studies by academic project partners indicate naturalized roadsides support approximately 3,000 pollinators/ ha while mowed roadsides support zero pollinators/ ha
- Wildflowers provided pleasing aesthetics in the first year, native grasses showed more success in subsequent years