



## INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

Date: January 3, 2024  
To: SNC Staff  
From: Brent Harbers, Watershed Biologist  
Subject: Maintenance of Pollinator and Wildflower Meadows

South Nation Conservation (SNC) established a pollinator meadow at Mill Run Conservation Authority in Fall 2022 and an additional two meadows near Winchester Springs and Chesterville in fall 2023. The following memorandum includes a summary of the areas converted to wildflower meadows and the required future maintenance of the sites.

### **Site Locations and Sizes**

Mill Run Conservation Area had approximately 1.5 acres of land converted into a pollinator meadow in the fall of 2022. The two 'Syngenta' wildflower sites were sowed with funding from Syngenta Canada's Operation Pollinator grant program. One site is approximately 1.4 acres and is situated to the west of SNC's Camp Sheldrick property on SNC 140. The other site is approximately 1.9 acres in size and is located at SNC 114. All three sites are displayed in maps below and seeded areas approximated in orange.

### **Site Maintenance**

To establish the meadow wildflowers and reduce weed and grass pressure, the meadows should be routinely mowed until 2025. Mowing maintenance will consist of mowing the entire meadow area to a height of 6" when the meadow vegetation reaches a height of 20" each growing season. This should be done to a maximum of 3 times per growing season. This will discourage the growth of grasses and unwanted vegetation (wild parsnip) at the site.

Mowing is ideally done with a flail or sickle mower that can be raised 6" off the ground to ensure unwanted vegetation is cut but the lower growing wildflowers are not. Cut vegetation should not be mulched as is achieved with a standard rotating blade mower.

Areas of thick unwanted vegetation such as cool-season, non-native grasses or 'weeds' like wild parsnip can be treated with herbicide, if warranted. These areas should be readily planted with wildflower plugs, seed, or potted stock to re-establish native plant cover in these areas and discourage reestablishment of invaders.

Burning the sites represents the most natural and effective way to maintain a wildflower ecosystem. However, burning is expensive and requires hiring specialty services and contractors. This should be investigated into the future through other funding sources.



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SNC 114

