

Understanding the Importance of Using Native,
Pollinator-Friendly Plants for Roadside Revegetation

the
**art &
science**
of revegetation

Building roads through natural landscapes can cause lasting damage

that can negatively affect plant life, water quality, and habitats of wildlife and pollinators.

To avoid these problems, a common vision of the desired future condition of the landscape and close collaboration of the groups involved in the road project are necessary.

The processes used to reestablish the plant communities that were disturbed by the road project are collectively known as “roadside revegetation.”



1. Initiation

is the process of fact-finding and coordination among the various members of the team.

2. Planning

is the process of creating a revegetation plan. Appropriate species (native and pollinator-friendly) and planting techniques are determined.

3. Implementation

is when the revegetation plan is started: plants are obtained, soils are improved, and plants are installed.

The Project Cycle of Revegetation

The process begins at the same time as the road project and continues well after its completion.

In the past, the elements of effective roadside revegetation were not well understood and efforts sometimes led to undesirable results: plants and seeds chosen for the project didn't grow well or the non-native species used out-competed native species. These problems resulted in bare slopes, prone to erosion, and were detrimental to stream courses and water quality.

More recently, by using plants native to the project area within a project cycle that employs science-based principals, revegetation efforts have achieved much greater success. Revegetated roadsides, with the right combination of plant species, also provide much needed habitat for pollinators such as monarch butterflies and honey bees.

Year 10

Year 5

Year 3


Year 1

4. Monitoring

the revegetation project is carried out after the project is completed, to determine how well project objectives were met and make any necessary adjustments.

5. Adaptation

is reviewing the project — what worked and what didn't work — and using this knowledge to develop better practices and technology for future projects.



When planned well, successful roadside revegetation programs support transportation goals for safety and efficiency, stabilize slopes, reinforce infrastructure, and create natural beauty and diversity along the roadside that supports pollinators while also improving the road user's experience.

For more information, please visit

www.NativeRevegetation.org

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
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