

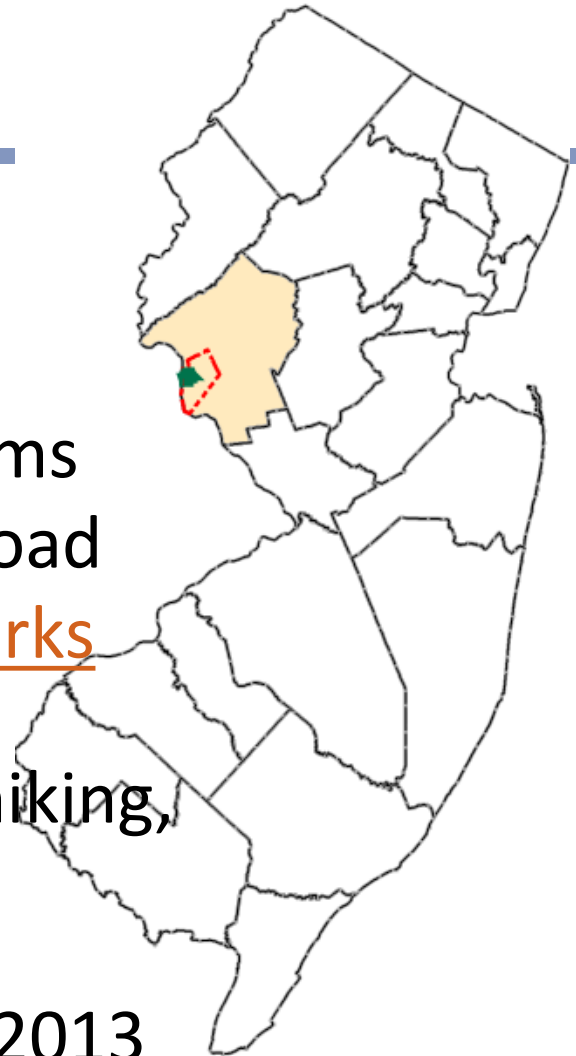
Meadow Restoration and Habitat Enhancement



**Horseshoe Bend Park
Kingwood Township
Environmental
Commission**

Horseshoe Bend Park

- Established in July 2011
- 450 acres
- Woods, fields, wetlands and streams
- 2 entrances on Horseshoe Bend Road
- <http://kingwoodtownship.com/parks> for trail maps
- Over 10.5 miles of trails used for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature observation and birding
- 3,500 visitors enjoyed the park in 2013



Butterflies

- North Jersey Butterfly Club surveyed butterfly population (<http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabanj>) & created a meadow management plan
- high diversity of butterflies (44 species)
 - Gray Comma (very rare)
 - White M Hairstreak (uncommon)
 - Common Sootywing (uncommon)
 - Sleepy Orange (uncommon)
 - Monarch



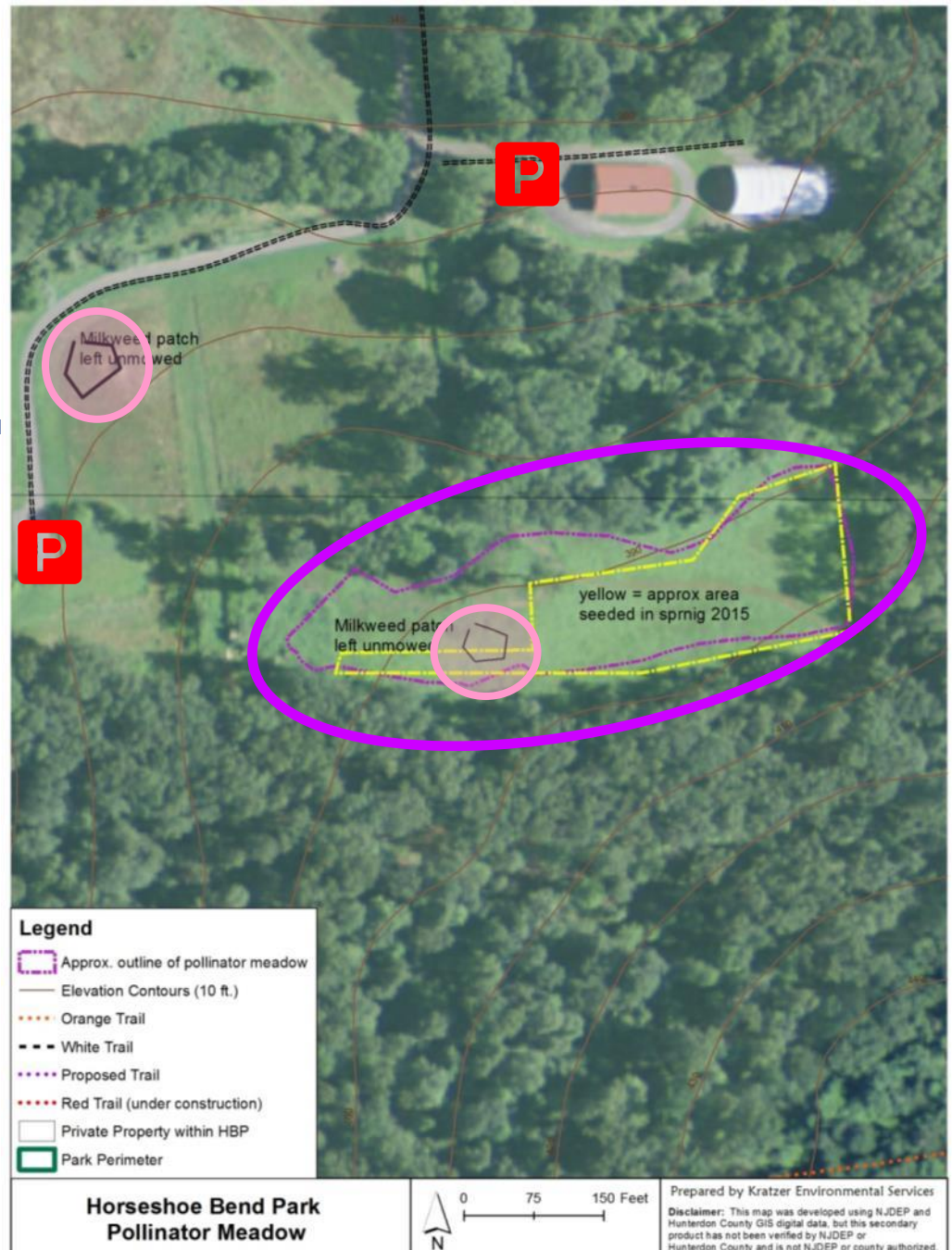
Tawny-edged Skipper
Polites themistocles

Objectives

- restore and enhance meadow habitat for pollinators, especially rare and uncommon butterflies on a 2.5 acre field within the park
- control invasive species which surround the meadow
- provide a living demonstration meadow with interpretive sign to educate the public about native plants and pollinators
- provide volunteer opportunities

Location of meadow project

- From Horseshoe Bend Road, use south entrance, across from Spring Hill Road



Selection of seed mix

- Species native to Hunterdon County
- “XERCES Mid-Atlantic Pollinator Mix” from Ernst Conservation Seeds
 - 33% Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
 - 17% Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
 - 11% Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
 - 10% Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
 - 7% Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)
 - 6% Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Seed mix (continued)

- Minor amounts of
 - Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)
 - Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
 - Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
 - Giant sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)
 - Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
 - New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
 - Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
 - Slender Mountainmint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
 - Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Before (looking west, April 2015)



After discing (looking east, May 2015)



Seeds were mixed with kitty litter



Volunteers broadcast seed/litter mix



5 weeks later...



Partridge Pea
(*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)



Existing milkweed
area had been left
un-plowed



2 ½ months later...

Slender mountainmint
(*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)



Partridge Pea
(*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)



Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) &
Milkweed Tussock Moth
(*Euchaetes egle*) caterpillars



Anise Hyssop
(*Agastache foeniculum*)



Tall boneset
(*Eupatorium altissimum*)



Next steps

- Install interpretive sign about pollinators & native plants
- Disc the other half of the field
- Sow seeds in other half of the field
- Mow to 8" height annually
- Continue to remove Invasives
- Monitor butterfly population



Contact

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