Unit: Native Plant Communities

Activity: Plant Community Poster

Pre Activity: Plant Community Herbarium Collection

Developed by: Heidi Bohan

Activity Length: 1 hour  Prep time: 30 minutes (prep art supplies, color copy art) Review: 5 min.

Guiding Questions: How do we decide what plants to add to our native plant restoration projects?

Brief Description of Activity: Students will pick (or be assigned) plant communities and will work in teams to create a full plant community poster using herbarium pressings of existing plants, and by adding art and labels to identify plants to create a visual image of a plant community.

Materials:
- Plant Herbarium Collection Activity plant pressings
- Native plant color sheets master set CD, Plant community master
- Teacher Provided: Poster board, glue, tape for herbarium pressings, color pens, etc. for posters; Color copies of color art (cut and ready to be used by students), access to internet for additional pictures, Plant community lists for students (laminated)

Activity

- Why it is important to know the plant community of the restoration site you are working on (successful plant selection, balanced ecosystem, wildlife habitat, etc.)?
- **We are going create posters to show how we can add plants to an existing plant community** to create more diversity and improve habitat.
- **Break students into several ‘Plant Community’ teams.** Pass out the herbarium pressings that belong to their plant community (from previous activity). There may be several posters of the same plant community.
- **Pass out poster materials**
- **Show students how to attach plant pressings** using tape (especially masking tape) and Elmer’s glue for thick stems and leaves.
- **Use the Plant Community lists to determine other plants that may be included** in the ‘poster’ community that currently do not exist. Be sure to include a wide selection of groundcovers, shrubs and trees.
- **Use color art, photographs, or other pictures to fill in the plant community with other plants to create a more diverse ‘plant community poster’**. Students can arrange their artwork in a variety of ways, and label plants with names.
- **Have students title the poster** with their plant community type and site name.