

River Banks and Canoe Public Access Areas

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Season of Interest	Comments
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	2-6'	Aug-Sept	Warm season grass; sod forming, very aggressive.
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	wild columbine	1-3'	June-July	Red-yellow flowers; self-seeds readily.
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	heart-leaved or blue wood aster	1-2'	Aug-Sept	Pale blue fragrant flowers; heart-shaped leaves; wet/shade tolerant.
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	heath aster	1-3'	Aug-Sept	Showy white flowers; spreads by rhizomes; aggressive.
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	1-5'	Sept-Oct	Purple flowers; self-seeds; wet/shade tolerant.
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	sideoats grama	1-2'	July-Sept	Bunch grass; self-seeds readily; good for erosion control.
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead	2-3'	Aug	White flower heads resemble "turtle heads."
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red osier dogwood	6-12'	year round	Bright red twigs; prefers wet/moist soil; tolerates most soils.
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye weed	3-5'	July-Aug	Pink flowers; aggressive and can compete with weedy species.
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	boneset	3-5'	July-Aug	Competes with weedy species; wet/shade tolerant.
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	wild geranium	1'	May-June	Spreads by rhizomes; grows well under trees.
<i>Iris cristata</i>	dwarf crested iris	6"	May	Lavender or white flowers; short-lived; rhizomatous.
<i>Liatris punctata</i>	dotted blazing star	1-2'	Sept-Oct	Purple flowers; prefers dry sites.
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	2-4'	Aug-Sept	Brilliant red flowers attract hummingbirds; short-lived.
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	great blue lobelia	1-3'	Aug-Sept	Dark blue flowers; sensitive to competition; wet/shade tolerant.
<i>Mimulus moschatatus</i>	monkey flower	8-24"	July	Yellow flowers; spreads; wet/shade tolerant.
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	woodland phlox	1'	May-June	Pale blue flowers; does best in moist shade.
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	greenheaded coneflower	5-8'	Aug-Sept	Very robust; moist, brushy areas.
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem	2-4'	Aug-Sept	Orange fall foliage; erosion control on slopes; self-seeds; tough.
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	ironweed	2-5'	July-Aug	Red-purple flowers; coarse texture; aggressive; wet/shade tolerant, taller in wet sites.
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada violet	6-12"	June-Aug	White fragrant flowers; wet/shade tolerant.

These plants were selected from a list of 55 species recently planted at Canoe Park on the Snake River in Mora, Minnesota. This list represents the Kanabec County Master Gardeners' top priority plants for this site based on their durability, adaptability, and beauty. The planting site is a public park and canoe access point characterized by poor soil, high shade from deciduous trees, and seasonal flooding. In addition to the native plantings along the upper one-fourth of the river bank slope and the upland park area, the renovation also included placement of rip-rap along the river bank to prevent further erosion and undercutting of the bank. The renovation of Canoe Park was a cooperative project of the Snake River Watershed Management Board, the City of Mora, Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Kanabec County Master Gardeners.

Compiled by Diana Rankin and Kanabec County Master Gardeners.



Kanabec Master Gardeners restoration project along the Snake River.