

Bee City USA - Village of Port Barrington

Report on 2023

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

It was another busy year in Port Barrington for pollinator habitat expansion and enhancement. The Village Board agreed to contract out stewardship of some of the established pollinator/stormwater gardens. This involved removal of invasive species as well as overseeding, supplemental planting and expansion where needed. The shoreline projects were included in these services. The Hermann Park Pond shoreline renovation has taken off nicely. Of the "year 1: sleep, year 2: creep, year 3: leap" phases, this project is in the CREEP phase and looks lovely! A "Ring of Trees" project was started around the perimeter of this pond years ago—native Illinois trees are being planted as able, including pollinator-friendly species. Each tree is labeled with its name and characteristics, enabling Village residents to learn and enjoy their majesty and hopefully be inspired to plant native trees on their own property. A new Public Works Building was completed this year. Adjacent to it, a substantial bioswale was excavated to capture and infiltrate rainwater before it reaches the in the pond. Plans for 2024 include appropriate plantings for this area including pollinator-friendly gems, of course!

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?

10

How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?

15

How many projects benefit monarchs, milkweed, or nectar plantings?

15

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

8538

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)

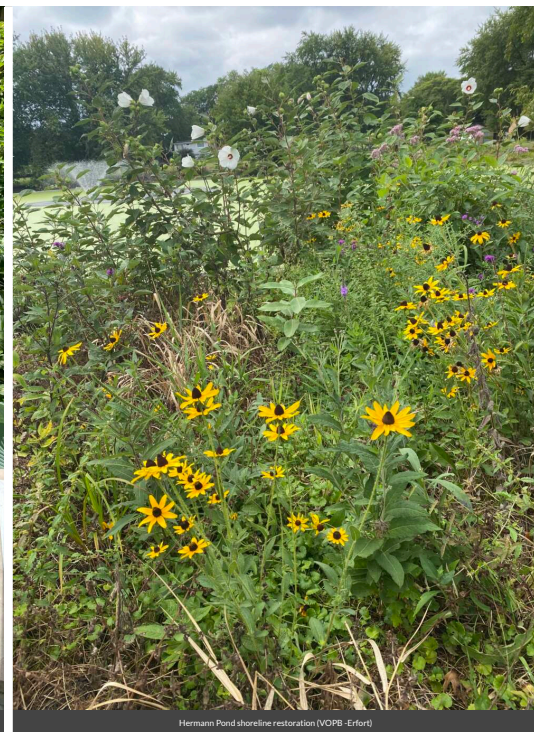
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale



Before: Pollinator rain garden installed in front of Port Barrington Village Hall (VOPB - Erfort)



After: Pollinator rain garden installed in front of Port Barrington Village Hall (VOPB - Erfort)



Hermann Pond shoreline restoration (VOPB - Erfort)

Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

The Village of Port Barrington, by Proclamation, honors “National Pollinator Week” the third week of June each year! New books are added to our Little Free Libraries—now in two locations—that promote bees and pollinators to all age groups. A basket of giveaways was available at the Village Hall. This year items included flyers about our pollinators, lists of pollinator-friendly plants, bee/hive finger puppets, pee pencils, bee puzzles and bee plant identification markers. The basket remained on a table next to our “Monarch Nursery Outreach Program” where live caterpillars evolve into butterflies. This year, two Village residents “caught the bug” and set up monarch nurseries in their own homes. Dozens

and dozens of adult monarchs were released into the wild through the efforts of this outreach project. “RiverFest” 2023, an annual community gathering honoring the Fox River, included an information table where the Village again displayed educational flyers and information about the importance of pollinators, native plants, and pesticide reduction. The Village Pollinator Education Gardens were close by, blooming in their September glory—a visual aid to what can be accomplished with native plant gardening. Other agencies that were invited to participate had their information booths set up to provide further educational materials. They included Lake County Forest Preserve, Lake County Stormwater Management, Northern Moraine Wastewater Reclamation District, McHenry County Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Fox River—kindred agencies invested in the health of flora and fauna surrounding the River!

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?

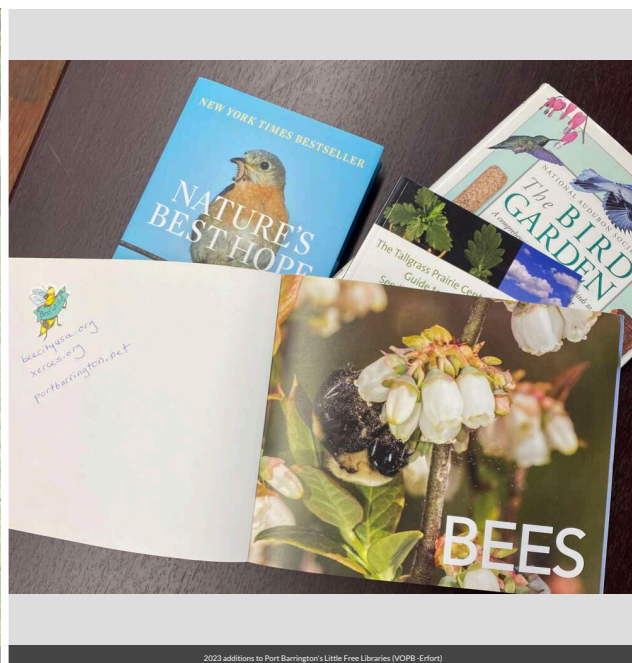
3

How many people attended those events (in total)?

75

How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

4





Village of Port Barrington entrance sign sporting the Bee City USA logo. (VOPB -Erfort)

Policies & Practices

Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.

The Village of Port Barrington Public Works Department continues best management practices to reduce pesticide use. Pesticides or herbicides are not included in routine maintenance. The Village maintains its philosophy of minimal pesticide use, keeping in line with County and State Department of Agriculture and Health Department recommendations. Park and easement turf grasses are typically not treated with pesticides or fertilizers. River channel weed control is maintained by mechanical weed cutting as opposed to using aquatic herbicides. Aquatic herbicide use in Hermann Park Pond has been reduced substantially, thanks in part to an installation of an aerator fountain. Mosquito abatement remains the biggest challenge the Village has in pest control. The Village maintains a preventative approach to mosquito control that includes removal of potential breeding habitat around homes, self-protection, and the importance of keeping area wetlands healthy. Public education plays an integral part in all of these. Adult mosquito management is relied on only when disease is present in vector populations and would be contracted out to Clarke.

Otherwise, biological larvicides are used when thresholds indicate necessity. Other pests are dealt with on an as-needed basis if/when they become a threat to the health, safety and/or economic well-being of the community. As a community on private wells with shallow aquifers, the Village supports policies to govern cautious water protection. There are no-phosphorus, illicit discharge, and chemical storage ordinances in place. Also by Ordinance, sections of the Village are under a designated water protection area. These policies, along with a solid Integrated Pest Management Plan, serve as a foundation for a healthier environment.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

The Village of Port Barrington continues to maintain and follow its integrated Pest Management Plan and to further public education in the reduction of pesticides and herbicides. The mosquito abatement program continues to strive to reduce pesticide control of mosquitoes through continuing education of staff and residents regarding the elimination of breeding sites and use of biological methods.

Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?

Training seminars for biological control of mosquito larva are attended annually by Village employees. Webinars were attended by Village staff for reduction of pesticide use in general. Road salt reduction seminars are also attended annually to help maintain healthy waterways and vegetation, including wetlands.

Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Only use pesticides as a last resort within the IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Eliminated pesticide uses that are solely to maintain aesthetics on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Eliminated use of neonicotinoid insecticides on city or campus grounds
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.

Regular articles in Village Newsletters attempt to educate homeowners about the benefits of pollinator species as well as the reduction of pesticide use for the health of all. Continuing education for public works employees and Village Officials, engaging trusted environmental management companies, and engaging with surrounding communities are all opportunities to learn new and better ways to reduce pesticide use. There are also efforts to lead a pesticide reduction outreach program to professional for-hire landscapers, starting with those contracted by Homeowner Associations within the Village.



Village "Ring of Trees" addition-- it is a Village policy to plant Illinois native trees in parks and parkways (VOPB -Erfort)

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM Village of Port Barrington.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://illinoisplants.org/native-plant-nurseries/>

<http://www.portbarrington.net>

villagehall@portbarrington.net

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=villageofportbarringtonfriendlybynature>