

Bee City USA - Village of Port Barrington

Report on 2024

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2024, and whether your committee hosted them or not.

As the Village of Port Barrington lies in a water sensitive area along the Fox River, we are all about habitat expansion and enhancement for stormwater issues. **BONUS:** We can design our stormwater management projects to benefit pollinators as well! Two new bioswale areas were created in our Hermann Park last year. This Spring, they were covered with seed blankets to get the pollinator-friendly native plant roots doing their job to infiltrate water back into the ground. In Spring of 2025 they will be over planted with plugs to further benefit our pollinator species! The Hermann Park Pond restoration continues, with pollinator plantings in full bloom last summer. At our annual community event, Riverfest, a trackless mini-train took passengers around the pond to view it's new glory. Also around this pond, our "Ring of Trees" expanded with another native species being planted by volunteers on Arbor Day. Stewardship for our other swales and shorelines continues—with both contracted and volunteer assistance—and with pollinator bloomers added in spring! Port Barrington's Public Works took knowledge gained from past pollinator-friendly efforts and used new pipes, gravel and plenty of beautiful pollinator-friendly plants to create an aesthetically pleasing area while solving a standing water problem along one of our roadways. The Village also acquired a new parcel of land for open space on the channels of the Fox River. Plans will unfold as to how to use it both as a sanctuary for our residents and to bolster the pollinator community. Over all, a pretty good year for area pollinators!

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2024?

12

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

12

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

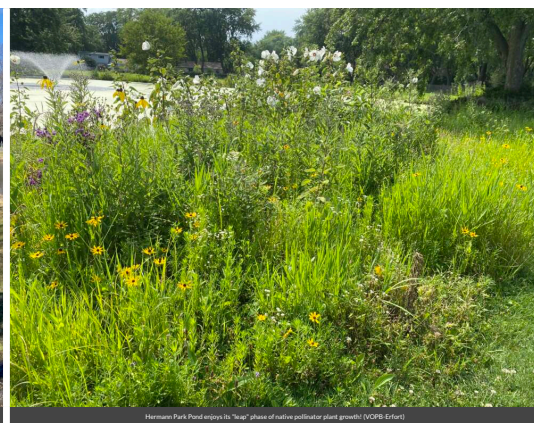
12

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

9238

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2024 with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable 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
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



Education & Outreach

Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2024, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.

The Village of Port Barrington is a recreational community that honors and respects our waterways. We did not stray from the norm in 2024! In March of 2024, Village President Keith Vogeler signed National Wildlife Federation's Mayor Monarch Pledge. This commitment was celebrated in June during Pollinator Week with the release of butterflies "fostered" at the Village Hall. Also in June, our annual outdoor Movie Night was a tremendous success with the showing of "Wonka." Bee and honeycomb shaped chocolates were given away along with a bee mask and information about the importance of pollinators. Participants could color the mask and wear it into the Village Hall during Pollinator Week to claim a prize—including native pollinator plant seeds. Our annual RiverFest in the Fall is an event

that brings our community together for a day of music, food, games and education. A "bee basket" that included honey, pollinator plant seeds, and information was raffled off to draw awareness and disseminate information. The park's native pollinator gardens and new bioswales were showcased.

How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2024 (in total)?

4

How many people attended those events (in total)?

200

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

4



Lovely rendition of Village of Port Barrington butterfly release during Pollinator Week 2024 to commemorate the NWF Mayor's Monarch Pledge! (VOPB Erford)



June 2024 Pollinator Week Promotion was given out at Port Barrington's Movie Night feature "Wonka" (VOPB Erford)



2024 Riverfest information table and raffie basket promotes our Bee City USA! (VOPB Erford)



The Village of Port Barrington "Friendly by Nature" welcomes everyone....including precious pollinators! (VOPB-Erfort)

Policies & Practices

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

The Village of Port Barrington continues to uphold its Integrated Pest Management Plan, using 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, in keeping 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. The installation of an aerator fountain in Hermann Park Pond has reduced the need for aquatic herbicides. 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. 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. Being a community on private wells with shallow aquifers, the Village supports policies to govern cautious water protection. There are no-phosphorous, 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.

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.

Spring mailings to area landscapers and newsletters to residents encourage native landscaping, pesticide reduction and reminders of the Village's no-phosphorous ordinance.

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

The Village Board is considering waiving permit fees for residents for using native / pollinator-friendly natural shoreline stabilization to encourage the creation of pollution-filtering buffers.

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

The Committee did review IPM Plan Toolkit: Webinar Recording provided by The Xerces Society. Enforcement of our "no phosphorous" ordinance and the Village of Port Barrington Integrated Pest Management Plan were reviewed with new staff members. Training seminars for biological control of mosquito larva are attended annually by Village employees.

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
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)

- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids



The purchase of books about bees and other pollinators continues to be a part of public education through additions to Village of Port Barrington's "Little Free Library" (a take one, give one exchange program) (VOPB-Erfort)

Committee Photo



Village of Port Barrington Board of Trustees - aka Bee City USA Committee at RiverFest 2024

Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [2025 UPDATE 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>