

Bee City USA - Village of Barrington Hills

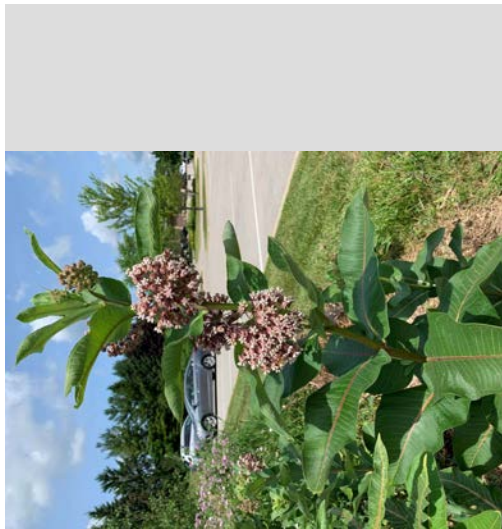
Report on 2020

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

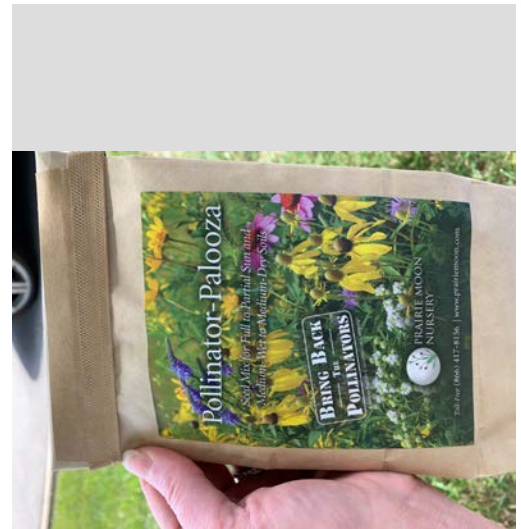
The creation of bee friendly habitats was facilitated through the native plant give-away. The Village purchased approximately 200 plants that included 5 species of flowering plants together blooming spring through fall that are easy to grow in our region. This initiative to broaden resident interest in pollinator plantings that support bees and other important insects was extremely well-received with approximately 20 residents taking part. In 2021 we intend to purchase even more plants and provide more in-depth education about the benefits of native flowers and grasses. The Village has identified approximately 8 acres of Village owned land that can be converted to native prairie and woodland areas. The section started behind Village Hall is a test area and educational resource that can be used to continue efforts throughout the remaining land over the next few years. Ongoing activities include the maintenance of the monarch pollinator garden and other native plantings around Village Hall.



A bee enjoys pollinator friendly native plantings surrounding Barrington Hills Village Hall



Existing native plants such as this milkweed were saved while clearing the area for the creation of the prairie patch



Pollinator-Palooza seed mixes were used to begin establishing the prairie demonstration area



Education & Outreach

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our planned events were not possible. Some events were planned at Village Hall, and others were planned in collaboration with local conservation organizations but were cancelled. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic we were able to host a “no contact” native plant give-away during pollinator week (end of June 2020). This event was promoted on the Village of Barrington Hills’ website and Facebook page and attended throughout a 2-day period by approximately 20 people. Five different species of native flowering plants were selected for residents to begin creating their own pollinator patch at home. Educational materials were provided on the 5 plant species, which were selected to flower from Spring to Fall and grow well in our region. Another initiative is to convert larger sections of grassy areas into pollinator friendly prairie or woodland areas using plants native to the Chicagoland region. Since most of our residents have properties that are minimum of 5 acres, there is an opportunity for residents to convert larger patches of lawn into prairie. This process would be labor intensive and costly if done using plugs, but if planted by seed can be cost effective. In May of 2020 we began a demonstration area behind Village Hall by beginning the conversion of an overgrown grassy area that included invasive weeds and non-native grasses into the beginnings of a prairie grassland. The area was cleared (preserving any native plants such as milkweed) prepared and seeded with a “Pollinator Palooza Seed Mix” from Prairie Moon Nursery as part of the “Bring back the Pollinator’s Campaign” in collaboration with the Xerces Society. Instructional videos and progress updates were provided on the Village’s Facebook Page (clearing the area; soil preparation and seeding). The annual Hills Are Alive Festival (socially distanced version) held September 2020 also provided information about the prairie patch and show-cased the progress of the project, which had been seeded and awaiting the frost-freeze cycle of winter. Approximately 250 people attended the outdoor event throughout the entire day.

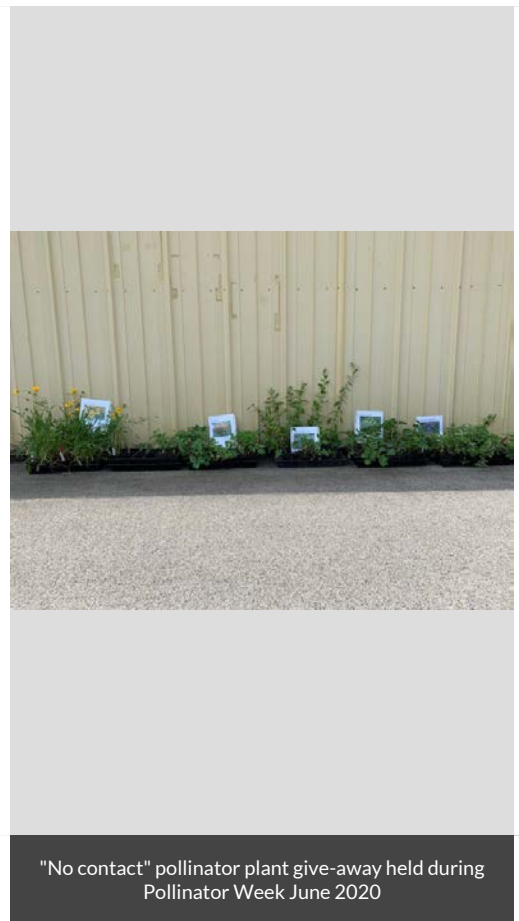




Pollinator garden begins; virtual education series on establishing prairie plants from seeds



Area cleared and seeded with "Pollinator Palooza Seed Mix" from Prairie Moon Nursery



"No contact" pollinator plant give-away held during Pollinator Week June 2020

Policies & Practices

The Village of Barrington Hills uses minimal pesticides on the property it maintains. Herbicides are used in spot locations to control invasive woody plants, such as buckthorn. In the flower beds around village buildings, mulch is used to discourage weed growth and weeds are hand-pulled. The lawn areas are not chemically treated with fertilizer or pesticides.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List:

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



Learn More

<https://barringtonhills-il.gov/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BarringtonHillsIL>



Virginia Brown



Paula Jacobsen



Anna Paul

Committee Members; Brown, BH resident; Jacobsen, Village Trustee; Paul, Village Administrator

