

Bee City USA - Hawthorn Woods

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

It is the intent of this Village to create a sanctuary for people and pollinators, as Hawthorn Woods is located in the migratory flight pattern of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinator species. The Village of Hawthorn Woods is proud to announce the completion of the Meadowlark Park and Arboretum. Once a 3.5-acre undeveloped turf grass lot, the Meadowlark Park and Arboretum now features an interactive playground comprised of five ADA compliant play pods, which depict the historical land use of Hawthorn Woods, as well as a diverse urban tree canopy designed in conjunction with the Morton Arboretum. The park also incorporates a 2-acre sustainable pollinator meadow habitat, walking trail, a rustic style "Little Free Library" donated by the Rotary Club of Long Grove/Kildeer/Hawthorn Woods, educational signage, park benches, and a picnic grove for families to enjoy. Meadowlark Park is open year-round between sunrise and sunset, accessible to all mobilities. As a municipality, we have a unique opportunity to educate residents and model unique, but replicable, urban pollinator habitats. The road islands in Hawthorn Woods already support large trees and some shrub and decorative species to beautify and add more greenery for our residents. This Sustainability Committee project takes unused portions of these islands and introduces pollinator-friendly plants to, over time, create small gardens, thus increasing our pollinator friendly landscape. To date, over 480 pollinator plugs have been planted in 22 municipal road islands due to the volunteer efforts. This Pollinator Pocket Program provides our residents with a practical demonstration of proper management techniques in creating a pollinator-friendly garden, easily adopted by resident homeowners surrounding each of these neighborhood islands. Residents will be continuously driving or walking by these pollinator pockets. The program will be promoted in our weekly E-Blast email newsletter sent to over 4,600 residents, our Village website, and Facebook page. A concerted outreach effort will also be conducted by our Sustainability Committee to educate members of the corresponding neighborhood Homeowners Associations. Brierwoods Preserve was once an 11.5-acre thicket of overgrown vegetation. However, through the extensive clearing and planting efforts of our Village Parks Crew and a diverse group of dedicated volunteers, Brierwoods Preserve is now a sustainable woodland and wetland pollinator habitat, open to the public and accessible to all mobilities, located within the Brierwoods subdivision.





A group of volunteers after clearing woody invasive species on one of the volunteer restoration days



The ribbon cutting of Meadowlark Park and Arboretum with Village staff, Board members, and volunteers present



Volunteers lay out native plants to be distributed to pollinator pockets on Village municipal road islands

Education & Outreach

Since Hawthorn Woods' 2020 designation with Bee City USA, the Village has gone above and beyond its commitments to expanding pollinator habitat expansion, education, and beneficial practices. In June, 2021, The Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Committee celebrated Pollinator Week with educational activities, seminars, and resources shared with the community. Each day of the week had a theme: Creation; Recognition; Agriculture; Reading; Training; and Action. Activities such as a pollinator scavenger hunt, a fun online quiz, a recipe list for plants that rely on pollinators, and books showcased at the local Ela Public Library, were presented for all community members to take part in. Resources and tips were provided as to how to responsibly expand pollinator habitat at home, where to source plants, and to learn more about beekeepers. Collaboration with the Lake County Beekeeper's Association resulted in a seminar for residents to learn about honeybees and what habitat is beneficial for all pollinators. Every year, the Sustainability Committee for Hawthorn Woods hosts a public Tree Giveaway event for residents. Tree seedlings are purchased from the Mason State Nursery and are given to residents with instructions on where and how to plant for optimal results. In addition, wildflower and milkweed seeds are provided to those who come. The selected species are all native to Hawthorn Woods and instructions for maintenance are given with each tree. Any unclaimed seedlings are retained and planted in one of the Village's parks or preserves by staff or volunteers. Green Sprouts Early Outdoor Education is a new initiative to provide children, ages 3-5, with an affordable outdoor education experience in the nature preserves of Hawthorn Woods. Taught for the first time in fall 2021, this class involves daily themes, hikes, and crafts for young children and their parents to explore their local plant



and animal communities. Topics like seeds, fungi, and pollinators have been a part of this education initiative by the Parks and Recreation Department and Sustainability Committee to encourage use of our outdoor classrooms for all ages. Working in conjunction with Hawthorn Gardens, a local garden center, Butterfly Kits, which include four pollinator-friendly plants, are sold to residents and businesses for ready-to-go planting. The Village has also selected a pollinator-friendly flower to serve as our official Village flower, the Echinacea Cheyenne Spirit. This perennial is planted throughout the Village and is offered to residents for their home gardens at Hawthorn Gardens.

Pollinator Week Scavenger Hunt

Village of Hawthorn Woods
Culver's
The Amish Family Welcome to delicious!

Long Grass	Swallowtail Butterfly	Flowering Tree	Fallen Leaves	Yellow Flower
Bumblebee	Milkweed	Hollow Stems	Wasp	Garden Fruit
Garden Vegetable	Moth	F R E E	White Flower	Old Log
Monarch Butterfly	Purple Flower	Pollen on Flower	Fly	Water Source
Interpretive Trail Sign	Beetle	Hummingbird	Bare Dirt	Caterpillar

If you complete this scavenger hunt, bring a printed copy to the Culver's located at: 645 N. Rand Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047 by Sunday June 27th 2021 for a Free Scoop of Fresh Frozen Custard!

Scavenger hunt activity made available physically and virtually for all community members to do at home and receive free frozen custard from a local business.

Girl Scout Troup 1409 who learned about urban forest and pollinator meadow maintenance and went on to plant native tree seedlings and spread wildflower seed

Sustainability Committee members handing out seedlings to residents at the annual Tree Giveaway event

Policies & Practices

The Village is proud to introduce the Green Business Program of Hawthorn Woods in 2021, intended to promote and celebrate green business practices in our community, big and small. This program aims to educate business owners on options for greening their business, to incentivize sustainable actions in our municipality, and to publicly recognize these



accomplishments to residents and customers. Local business owners can learn how to reduce energy costs, manage waste, and support natural landscapes through our Green Business Guidebook and Action Resources. Adding to the Village's environmental efforts are raised gardens that are planted and harvested by the employees. The raised gardens are located behind Village Hall and at the Public Works Building, where both flowers and garden vegetables are grown. The purchased plants are organically grown and placed together in plant communities that do not compete with one another. The Village continues to recycle large pieces of wood from trees that have been cut down into container gardens. These large pieces of wood are hollowed out, with drainage holes carved out and then planted up. They can be seen in front of Village Hall and in front of various local businesses throughout our community and will soon be available for the front porches of our residents. These containers, each one unique, are sculpted by our Public Works Department and can be used year after year. This is a 100% eco-friendly initiative. Hawthorn Woods' trees were inventoried in 2020 and that data was used to develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan, which details how the trees will be managed for the benefit of Hawthorn Woods, park patrons, and the residents of the Village over the next 10 years, with projects implemented in 2022-2032. The health of our urban forest is of great importance to our pollinators and details of the plan include strategies that will benefit our plant and animal communities. Climate resilience, invasive species management, species diversification, and Best Management Practices for any contractors are all detailed within this plan. This aggressive endeavor is the direct result of our constant effort to raise the environmental bar even higher based on what we have learned through our association with our many partners.

Integrated Pest Management Plan: [Village of Hawthorn Woods EAB Management Plan.docx](#)

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

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



Chemical Applications

Trees, like people, sometimes contract pests and pathogens. Often these pests and pathogens can be controlled with a simple chemical application just as illnesses in humans can be controlled with medication. This practice is called Plant Health Care. When financially practical, chemical control for common pests or pathogens may be utilized as a preventative or curative method and increase the aesthetics and benefits of the tree population.

At present, Hawthorn Woods chemically treats trees and herbaceous species on a very limited basis against known pest or pathogen and has committed to the use of organic solutions to pest and pathogen issues instead of more potentially harmful formulations. However, in the unpredictable face of new introduced pests and pathogens, VHW is leaving the door open to potential mass treatments should they be ecologically and financially sustainable.



Snippet of practices for tree care from the newly passed Urban Forest Management Plan

[Learn More](#)





Committee members and girl scouts host a highway-cleanup day along a Hawthorn Woods roadway

