

Bee City USA - Village of Port Barrington

Report on 2021

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

With monies received in part from a grant awarded to the Village of Port Barrington, "The Village Hall Rain Garden and Bee Habitat" was installed the end of last summer. Four educational mini gardens incorporate native plantings specifically chosen to house and feed precious pollinators. One is a vegetative swale that turned a mowed culvert into a water-filtering, buffet for pollinators such as butterflies, honeybees and moths. A second garden is a prairie-style strip in the sunshine, sure to create quite a buzz and complete with bright blooms and rain barrels. Third is a rain garden that catches water from a Village Hall downspout and hosts native plants sure to draw a crowd—including dragonflies, hummingbirds, honeybees and other bumbles. And last, but not least, a patch of former asphalt in the middle of the parking lot was converted into a bountiful nectar bar! As a bonus, the native plants in these gardens will help draw rainwater back into the ground with their long root systems as they filter out pollutants such as oil and road salt residues from the parking lot and roof tops. Formerly these nasty substances would be captured by a storm sewer draining to our Hermann Park Pond. Thank you, pollinator-friendly native plants! Thank you, Openlands & ComEd Green Region Program for awarding the Village Port Barrington monies towards pollinator conservation. Four more Village parks with current native plants projects in swales, on shorelines and around park equipment, had over-seeding done to enhance what is already growing with more pollinator-perfect plants. Park signs were surrounded by donated black-eyed susan plantings, adding a spark of color sure to attract the pollen hungry! Many of the plantings and weeding for our pollinator gardens were done by our Pollinator Preservation Committee and other volunteers. We hope to expand our list of good stewards and pollinator lovers going forward!





Educational pollinator bio-swale garden planting day!
Thank you Openlands / ComEd!

Young volunteer, Sebastian, helps plant a native tree
in Village park on 9-11

Just planted pollinator plants in a parking lot
filtration garden gets tested with their first rain!

Education & Outreach

The Village of Port Barrington is a small, recreational community nestled between the Fox River and wetland areas. To show pride as a BEE CITY USA, Village leaders used creative ways to hold community events as the COVID-19 pandemic safety parameters allowed us to gather outside once again. At our drive-thru Spring Egg Hunt in April, our Bunny gave families goodie bags that included moss pots and flowering plant seeds to encourage our community to spend time outdoors planting pollinator gardens at home. Our annual Village Garden Party was held in the fall, and we launched our Kids' Bike Parade by highlighting our newly planted pollinator gardens that were made possible through a grant focusing on pollinator conservation from the Openlands / ComEd Green Region Program. This Village Hall "Rain Garden and Bee Habitat" project consists of several small native plant areas, each with a slightly different purpose. Plants were chosen to help infiltrate rainwater and to provide housing and food for our pollinators! In the future, these areas will serve as educational "how to" gardens for the frequent visitors to Port Barrington's Village Hall and the park that surrounds it. The gardens have temporary signage, but they soon will be replaced by lovely, educational signs telling why we can't live without our pollinators and how to help keep them around! In addition, a tree planting ceremony was held in memory of 9-11. This tree added to our growing collection of native tree species that ring a pond in one of our parks. The Village of Port Barrington has received its 7th year recognition as a Tree City USA. As an ongoing way to help spread the word about the value of pollinators, adult and children's books on this subject are periodically added to our Little Free Libraries. These books have a bee sticker inside the front cover along with the Bee City USA website address. Facebook posts are often shared by one of our Pollinator Preservation Committee members, promoting saving our pollinators through local social media. An ongoing volunteer stewardship program was begun by the Committee to further engage the community in helping to maintain our Village Pollinator Gardens and the native plants being placed around our park signs.

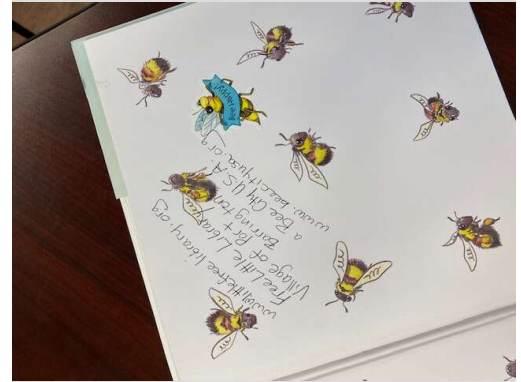




Port Barrington's Bunny shares goodie bags including flowering plant seed packets labeled "BEE the Change"



Annual Bike Parade launches in front of newly created pollinator-friendly vegetative swale.



Little Free Libraries in Port Barrington circulate pollinator awareness to readers

Policies & Practices

In a community with shallow aquifers, the Village supports policies to govern cautious water protection which in turn reduces pesticide use. 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. Village newsletters have frequent articles about reducing pesticide use and planting of native, flowering plants. A Volunteer "Weed Brigade" is ongoing –volunteers work on hand-pulling weeds in our native gardens while learning to garden without herbicides and insecticides!

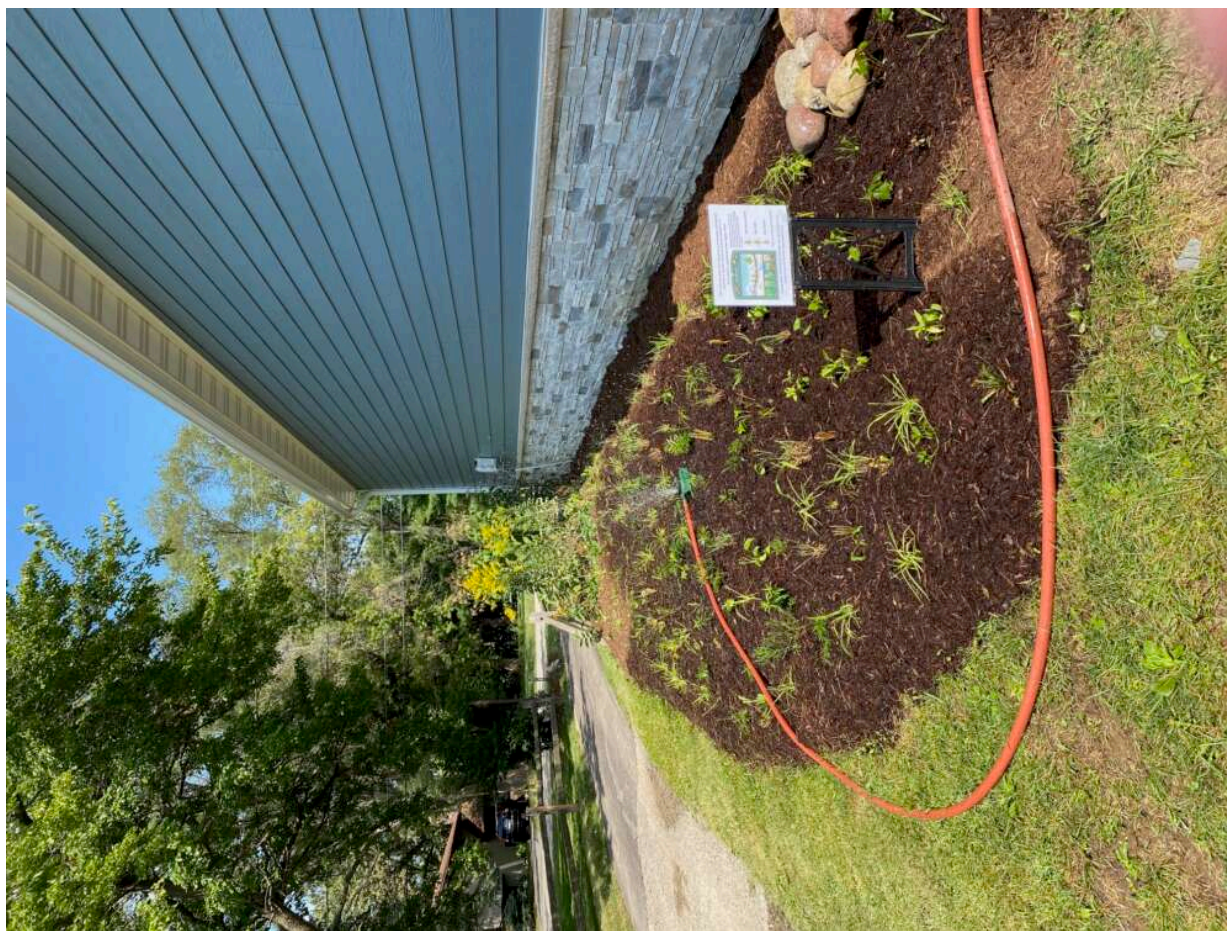
Integrated Pest Management Plan: [IPM Village of Port Barrington.pdf](#)

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

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:



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



New pollinator garden signage educates about run-off pollutants and pollinator protection while awaiting permanent signs.

Learn More

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Port Barrington's Pollinator Preservation Committee member, Dawn Cillo, decides on a native tree for 9-11 memorial planting.

