

Pollinator Protection at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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The EPA is committed to being a leader among federal agencies in demonstrating pollinator protection and promotion at its facilities.



Protecting Pollinators

On June 20, 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum, *Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*

- Directs the EPA to take actions to protect and restore pollinator populations on its managed lands and facilities



EPA Pollinator Protection Initiative

- The Office of Administration and Resources Management's Safety and Sustainability Division conducted pollinator site assessments at 17 EPA facilities in 2015
 - To provide the EPA and its facilities with baseline information on pollinator habitats and communities



EPA Facilities' Pollinator Assessments

- Assessment scores ranged from 77 points to 211 points out of a possible 250
 - 7 of the facilities scored in the fragile pollinator habitat category
 - 8 facilities contained adequate pollinator habitat
 - 2 facilities were in the optimal pollinator habitat category

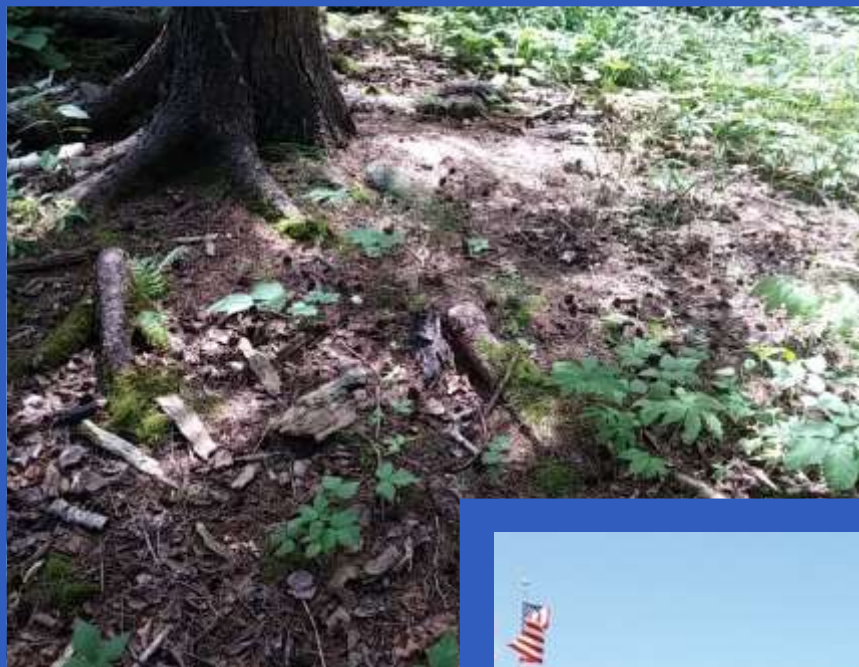


EPA Facilities' Pollinator Assessments

- Several different types of pollinators were observed during the assessments
 - Bees
 - Wasps
 - Flies
 - Beetles
 - Butterflies
 - Moths



Examples of Pollinator Habitats at EPA Facilities



Mid-Continent
Ecology Division
Laboratory

Duluth, Minnesota

Examples of Pollinator Habitats at EPA Facilities



Gaar Corner

Ada, Oklahoma

EPA Pollinator Assessment Recommendations

- Eliminate pesticide and herbicide use, or adapt integrated pest management programs to specifically address pollinator protection
- Establish integrated vegetation management programs that promote stable, pollinator-friendly plant communities and address undesirable invasive plants
- Assign a staff person at each facility to lead a pollinator-specific program to help guide facility improvements
- Improve pollinator foraging and nesting habitats



Think Locally!

- Plant native grasses, shrubs, and flowers
- Plant shrubs or trees with hollow or pithy stalks
- Include plants that bloom at different times across the seasons



Leave These for the Bees!

- Leave organic materials in place during fall garden maintenance
- Plant flowering cover crops
- Allow flowering groundcover to remain in the lawn
- Leave dead wood piles and snags



Cut Back on Cutting

- Leave some areas mulch-free for ground-nesting bees
- Convert portions of lawns to wildflower meadows, pollinator gardens or fields with flowering grasses
- Limit mowing to every 2-3 weeks and raise the cut height to 2.5 inches
- Avoid tilling



Next Steps for the EPA

- Educate facility managers, landscape staff, and contractors
- Develop a pilot community garden
- Assess additional EPA facilities
- Continue to promote pollinator protection across the agency



Resources

- Pollinator Protection at EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/pollinator-protection-epa>
- EPA Protecting Bees and Other Pollinators from Pesticides: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>
- USDA NRCS Insects & Pollinators: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/>
- USDA Forest Service Pollinators: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/>
- Pollinator Partnership: <http://www.pollinator.org/>
- Xerces Society Pollinator Conservation: <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/>



Thank you for
your time
and Happy
Pollinator Week
(June 20-26)!

