

# Federal Pollinator Initiatives & Case Study Sites



# Agenda

- I. Initiatives at GSA
- II. GSA Case Study
- III. Pollinator Protection Initiative at EPA
- IV. EPA Case Study
- V. Forest Service, Smithsonian, SFMOMA Garden Examples
- VI. Resources



*National Strategy and goal: Restore and enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators through Federal actions and public-private partnerships.*



# GSA Initiatives

**Policy Implementation:** GSA's Facility Standards feature prescriptive requirements for all new landscaping projects on federal facilities in support of 2014 national pollinator strategy and guidance.

Typical Projects include: Land Ports of Entry expansion, construction and renovation of Federal Courthouses and Buildings

**Green Roofs:** GSA maintains over 2 million square feet of green roofs  
GSA's green roofs can be found on the agency's [Green Roof Tracker](#)

Green Roof features:

- 1) Reduce the storm water runoff rate from a roof by up to 65%
- 2) Make roof surfaces 30-40% cooler
- 3) Reduce heat flux from roof to building by up to 72%
- 4) Last 40 years or more
- 5) **Attract pollinators in urban areas with native and flowering plants**



# GSA Case Study

**Site:** Living Roof at 50 UN Plaza,  
San Francisco, CA

**Description:** 14,000-square-foot green roof with a succulent carpet, a meadow mix, wildflowers, and vines growing along the walls to shield the rooftop mechanical equipment. California natives and grasses host and provide nectar to species to help them thrive and populate the city. Installed in 2013.

**Best practices:** The roof can support 8 inches deep of growing media. The roof also incorporates photovoltaic solar panels into the design, generating energy on site, and provides a wider range of habitats for plants with different shade tolerances.



*In dense, urban areas,  
consider planting on rooftops.*



# EPA Pollinator Protection Initiative

**Progress:** Baseline established Fall 2015: Pollinator Site Assessment Summary Report released by EPA's Safety and Sustainability Division, Washington DC, November 2015

**Scope:** Baseline information for pollinator habitats at 17 EPA facilities in 11 states.

**Methodology:** Site visits conducted and facilities were scored in accordance with Xerces Society Assessment Form and Guide.

**Results:**

- 7 fragile pollinator habitat
- 8 adequate pollinator habitat
- 2 optimal pollinator habitat



*Research Triangle Park Main Campus, North Carolina*



# EPA Case Study

**Site:** Meadow at Mid Continent Ecology Division, Duluth, MN

**Description:** 3.5 acres of 13 acre campus. Former lawn converted into a pollinator habitat meadow in 2003.

**Best Practices:** Active monitoring and maintenance with a landscaping contractor, nesting habitats present, no pesticide or herbicide use.



*Duluth Site scored #1 of 17 facilities in EPA's 2015 baseline assessment.*



# Forest Service

**Site:** Buffalo Gap Campground, U.S. Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grasslands, Little Missouri Grassland, north of Interstate 94 and west of Medora, ND

**Description:** This approximately 2,500 square foot pollinator garden showcases native wildflowers. Located adjacent to the camper registration kiosk it was planted in 2010. The campground also features multiple trails to a scoria hill with wildflowers and grassy areas with milkweed.

**Best practices:** A bird bath is installed onsite. Aluminum signs posted to identify the plants with both their Latin and botanical names for public education. Plants are regularly maintained by Forest Service Biological Technician and Botanist.



*Small areas make big educational impacts too.*



Smithsonian

# Smithsonian

**Site:** Smithsonian Urban Garden  
Washington DC, East side of the National  
Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

**Description:** 11,000 square foot Butterfly  
Habitat Garden supports plant species  
having specific relationships to life cycles of  
eastern United States butterflies. Built in  
1995, expanded in 2000.

**Best Practices:** Plant labels provide a plant's  
botanical name, common name, region of  
origin and indicates the specific life cycle it  
supports. Visitor tours are available.



*In dense, urban areas, consider  
campus perimeters for foraging  
and nesting areas.*



# San Francisco MOMA

**Site:** Living wall, vertical garden,  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

**Description:** 4,339 square feet (the largest living wall in the U.S.) with 19,422 individual plants of 37 native species. The 150-foot-long and over 29-foot-tall wall is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor open air terrace and visible from six floors. Installed March 2016 and open to the public as of May 2016.

**Best Practices:** The wall consists of layers of steel, felt, and polycarbon. Plants are watered through a hidden, internal irrigation system. Although there is little direct light, a few floral plants were accommodated among the native species.



*In dense, urban areas, consider planting vertically.*

# What Can You Do?

- 1) Use native plants and provide to your facility landscaper plant lists to start a small garden or enhance your landscaping areas.
- 2) Establish a regular maintenance schedule to remove invasive species.
- 3) Avoid the use of pesticides or herbicides.
- 4) Establish a pollinator point of contact or team at your facility to plan for baseline assessments and improvement plans.
- 5) Track your pollinator habitat with the EPA's Federal Green Challenge and obtain additional resources from EPA staff.



# Resources

## Plant Guides:

- Pollinator Partnership Eco-regional Planting Guides:  
<http://www.pollinator.org/guides.htm>
- Xerces Native Plant lists by Region:  
<http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/>
- Forest Service: Planting Guides and plant lists by area:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/gardening.shtml>

## Federal Agencies:

USDA & DOI released Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Lands as Federal guidance:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/BMPs/>

## Communities & Public:

Million Pollinator Challenge & National Pollinator Garden Network Practices and tools for a network of approximately 800,000 gardeners, 10,000 schoolyard gardens and bring a baseline of a 250,000 registered pollinator gardens nationwide. <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/>

# Thank You



**For questions or additional resources:**

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