Planting for Wildlife and Clean Water



Angie Hong - Water Resource Educator







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Angie Hong is the coordinator for Minnesota's East Metro Water Resource Education Program, a local government partnership with 25 members.

In her free time, she enjoys singing, competing in triathlons, and exploring the prairies, woods and waterways of the St. Croix Valley.

She is also mom to an exceedingly active eight-year old boy.



Planting for wildlife and clean water:

- 1. Basics of landscaping for wildlife
- 2. Birds
- 3. Pollinators
- 4. Turtles and frogs
- 5. Gardening with native plants
- 6. Site visits and grants



Established in 1942

Mission: To enhance, protect, and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance, and educational services to citizens and local government.

Watershed Management Organizations Washington County

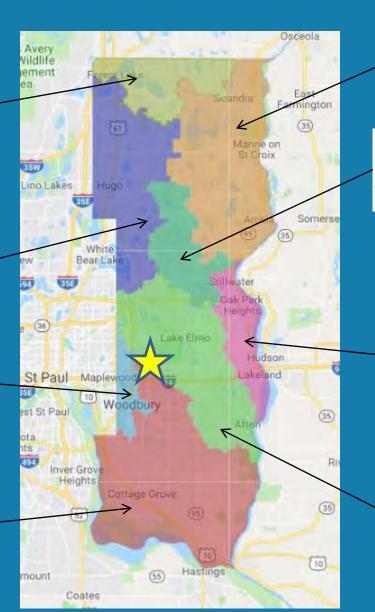
Watershed Rules
Projects
Cost-share \$\$

















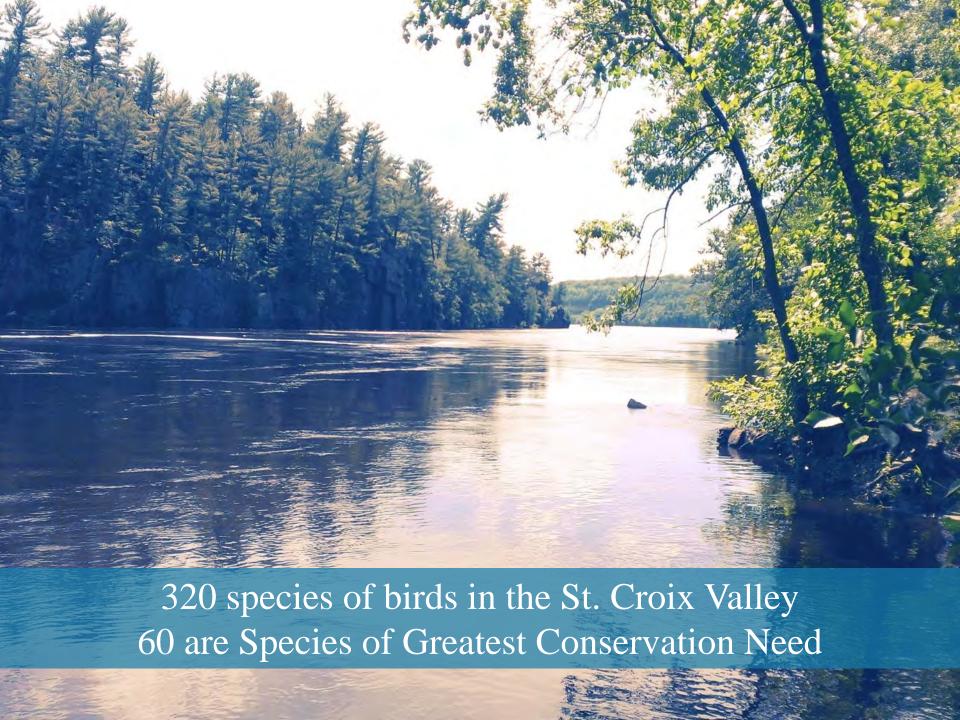








BIRDS











"If you have a backyard, this book is for you." -Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods Bringing Nature Home UPDATED AND EXPANDED **How You Can** Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants Douglas W. Tallamy With a Foreword by Rick Darke





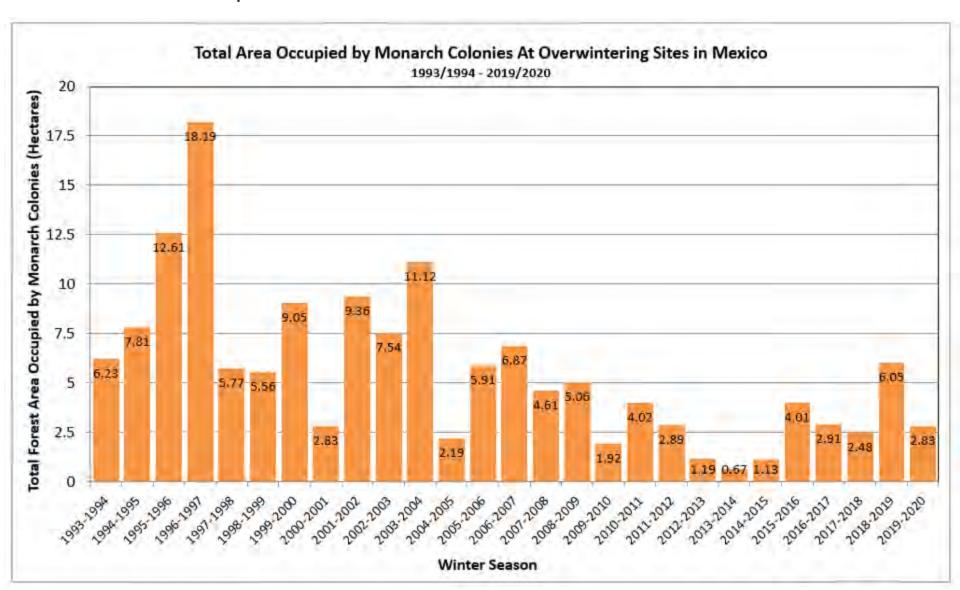






POLLINATORS

Eastern Monarch Population Numbers Decrease 53% from 2019









Our New State Bee

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Bombus affinis



Bumble Bees Need:

- · Nests in the ground
- Blooming native flowers throughout the growing season. It is active from April to October
- · Connected, high quality habitat
- Protection from insecticides and fungicides. Many chemicals that promote a dense lawn have adverse and even unintended effects on wildlife.



Rusty Patch Bumble Bee Species Needs



Nesting Habitat

Abandoned rodent nests or cavities, 1'-4' below the ground in open areas.



Floral Resources

Requires nectar and pollen sources from mid March to mid October.



Overwintering Habitat

Loose soil or leaf litter just below the ground. Near woodland edge.

Lawns to Legumes

Species for The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee



Wild Bergamot



Virginia Bluebells



Goldenrod



Blazingstar



Giant Hyssop



Columbine



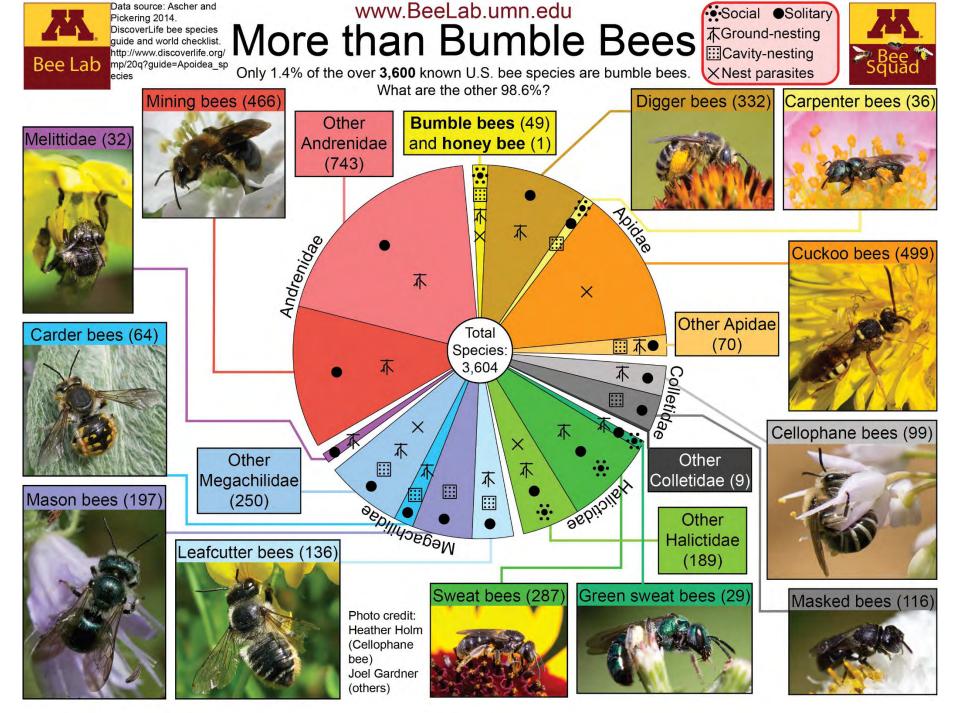
Asters

A FLOWER PATCH FOR THE RUSTY PATCHED



The Endangered Rusty-patched Burnble Bee was once historically common throughout its large range in Canada (ON & QC) and the USA. In the past three decades it has become rare with only a handful of individuals spotted each year. This species is one of the first to emerge in the spring and the colony finishes up in the fall.









TURTLES & FROGS

Frog friend to-do's



- Limit use of chemicals, especially in the spring
- Leave an unmowed buffer near soggy woods and seasonal wetlands
- Good plants for wetlands: sedges, blue flag iris, swamp milkweed, joe-pye weed, cardinal flower, black-eyed susans, and ferns.
- Leave a few fallen trees and logs in the water to provide shelter for the frogs, as well as a place to bask in the sun.



Blanding's turtles are a threatened species in Minnesota

Need intact wetlands, lakes, grasslands and sandy, rocky open areas for breeding and nesting and will travel up to a mile from the water's edge to lay their eggs.

Threats

- Loss of upland and wetland habitat due to development and farming
- Many females killed by cars while traveling to lay eggs in the spring

Preferred habitat

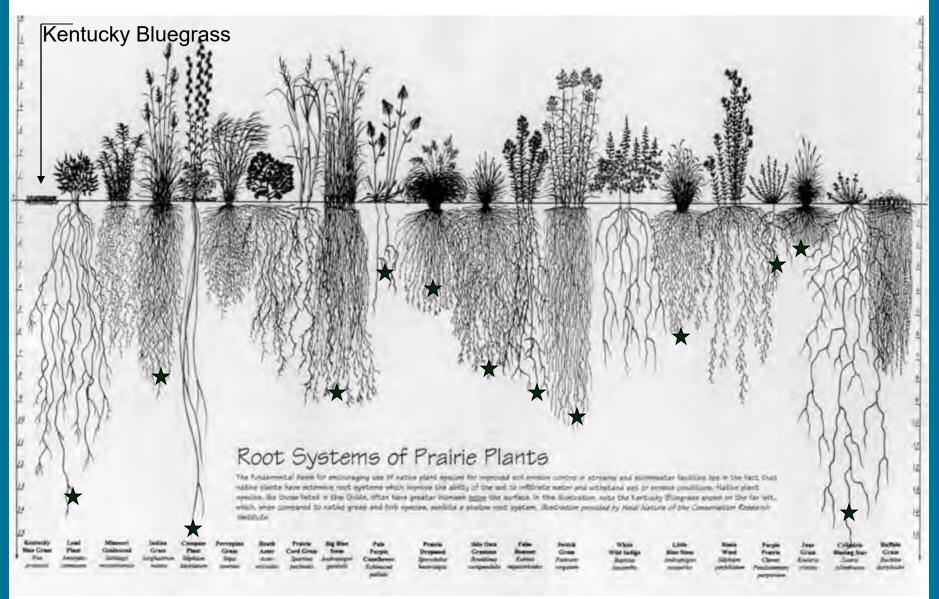
- Calm, shallow water bodies with muddy bottoms and lots of lilies and aquatic plants
- Large marshes bordering the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers
- Small temporary wetlands that dry up in the late summer or fall
- Northern Washington County is one of the few places in the state where Blanding's turtles still roam.





Gardening with native plants

Roots of Native Prairie Plants



Conservation Research Institute and Heidi Natura

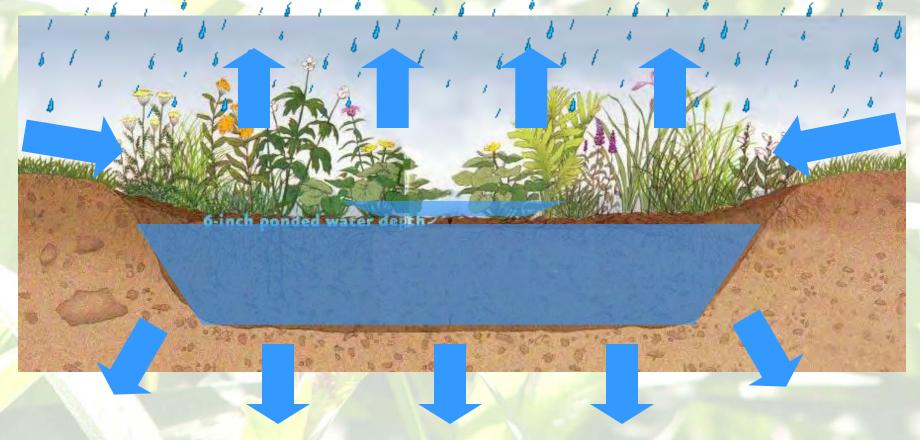








Raingardens (Capturing Rainwater / Stormwater)



Just like a regular planting, but able to absorb rainwater and breakdown pollutants



Shorelines

Roxanna Esparza



Wetlands

Approximately 43% of threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the U.S. live in or depend on wetlands.



Rules of the (wet)Land



NO = 1)Draining 2) Filling 3) Altering

- Protected by the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) 1991
- Not all wetlands hold water throughout the year. Seasonal wetlands are still protected.
- Some cities & watershed districts require un-moved buffers around wetlands.
- You are required to get a permit for all projects that impact wetlands, including driveways, culverts, new construction and home additions.
- Contact your SWCD for questions related to wetlands.



Can I get rid of the weeds and replace it with more attractive vegetation?

- Are they actually weeds?
 - Some native plants appear messy but provide wonderful habitat and water quality benefits.
 - Invasive species like reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and phragmites should be managed.
- Always research local regulations before clearing vegetation around wetlands.

Wetland Grasses & Rushes



Wetland Forbs



Wetland Shrubs







Getting started:

- 1. WCD site visits: www.mnwcd.org/site-visit-signup-form
 - Outside Washington County, contact your SWCD
 - In Wisconsin, contact your Land & Water Conservation Dept.
- 2. Watershed District cost-share grants
- 3. Find plants & contractors: www.bluethumb.org

Local plant suppliers:

Dragonfly Gardens – Amery, WI dragonflygardens.net
*Now selling Victory Gardens for \$30

Landscape Alternatives – Schafer, MN landscapealternatives.com

Kinnickinnic Natives – River Falls, WI www.kinninatives.com

Lupine Gardens – Amery, WI (*Open for delivery or by appt. only) lupinegardens.com

Outback Nursery – Denmark Twp., MN www.outbacknursery.com

Native Sun, Seeds and Plants – Afton, MN nativesunseedsandplants.com



Questions?

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POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE

www.pollinatorfriendly.org



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE grassroots non-profit that protects the natural world through the conservation of pollinators and their habitats.

Laurie Schneider, Executive Director, Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Research Supervisor, Entomology, University of Minnesota



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead







Today's topic

- Pollinator decline
- Pollinator conservation initiatives
- Partnerships and policies





Endangered: Persius duskywing, Ottoe skipper, Dakota skipper, Assiniboia skipper, **Uncas** skipper, Karner blue, Poweshiek skipperling, Uhler's artic. Threatened: Garita skipperling. **Special** Concern: Arogos skipper, Disa alpine, Leonard's skipper, Nabokov's blue, Grizzled skipper, Regal

fritillary.

Excerpt from Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Pollinator Protection Report

MINNESOTA'S IMPERILED POLLINATORS

Federally endangered



Poweshiek skipperling butterfly.



Karner blue butterfly.



Rusty-patched bumble bee.

Federally threatened



Dakota skipper butterfly.

Under review for federal listing



Yellow-banded bumble bee.



Monarch butterfly.

In addition to federally-listed species, Minnesota has 8 state-listed endangered pollinator species, 1 threatened, 10 species of special concern, and an additional

19 non-listed species in greatest conservation need.



Top Causes of Pollinator Decline

- Pesticide use
- Habitat loss and fragmentation of landscapes, development
- Climate change

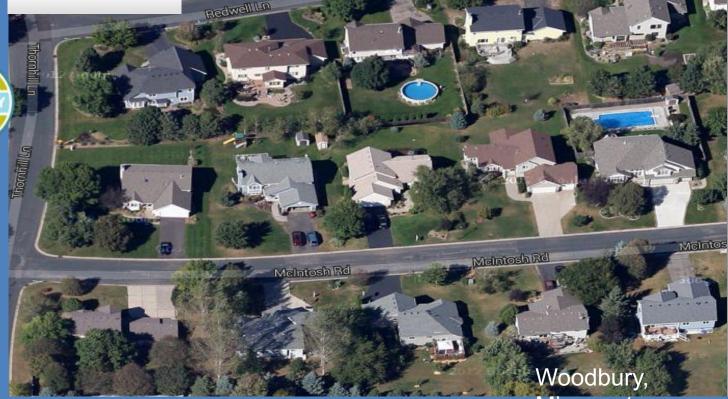




Reducing pesticides is a key ingredient in creating habitat.



- Combining pesticides, additives and inert ingredients has synergistic effects that can increase toxicity.
- Insecticides have toxic lethal and sub-lethal effects on pollinators.
- Herbicides can kill the plants pollinators use for food and shelter.
- Some fungicides are toxic to bees.



Backyard habitats are crucial as we lose

https://maps.natural habitats to:

- Residential development
- Commercial agriculture
- Human overpopulation

Minnesota

- Pesticide use
- Climate change

Page 1 of 1



Native plant and pollinator species coevolved

Glacier lily

mining bee

and





Minnesota Pollinator Advocate Initiatives

- Cultivate habitat corridors in urban and suburban areas.
- Develop incentives for conventional farmers to transition to regenerative pesticide-free practices.
- Neonic tag on coated seed bags.
- Replace turf with habitat. (Lawns to legumes and other programs).
- Advocate for pesticide reduction: ban systemic insecticides in wildlife management areas, preemption for local communities to regulate pesticides locally.
- Awareness and education on pollinator conservation.

MINNESOTA STATE AGENCY POLLINATOR REPORT

2019 | Annual Report

Protecting pollinators in Minnesota: How are we doing?



2016 GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON POLLINATOR PROTECTION

- Cross state agency directive to implement pollinator protection actions.
- Create pollinator protection committee.
- Create pollinator protection fund.
- Ban neonicotinoid insecticides on public state lands.





LAWNS TO

LEGUMES

State funded cost share program for residents to convert turf to habitat

www.bwsr.state.mn.us/121

Lawns to Legumes: Your Yard Can BEE the Change











The Lawns to Legumes program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and costshare funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns. The program also includes a public education campaign to raise awareness for pollinator habitat projects and will establish



Pollinator Friendly Alliance Initiatives

- Education programs, citizen science, best practices summit, pollination festival.
- Advocate pollinators in communities, pollinator friendly resolutions, civic stewardship.
- Pollinator habitat in partnership with other orgs and agencies.





REPLACE TURF WITH HABITAT

- Cultivate a lawn with low flowering plants like wild violets, white dutch clover, creeping thyme, ground ivy.
- Dandelions are the most important spring food source.
- Bee lawns require little mowing, no watering or chemicals.





POLLINATOR LAWN



provides food and habitat for pollinators with grasses and low growing perennials.

Eagan,
Minnesota
Steve Thomforde, Ecologist



PARTNERSHIPS
WE CAN DO
MORE TOGETHER



Local and county





PARTNERSHIPS WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER

BEFORE

Empty city lot in Stillwater Pollinator Friendly Alliance



Build protected sanctuaries and mini ecosystems in adjacent backyards, community gardens, underutilized lots, and public spaces.



AFTER

Empty city lot in Stillwater Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Create living corridors







44 POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOLUTIONS

- Promotes healthy environments
- Cease use of systemic insecticides
- Inventory of pesticides being used
- Plant pollinator habitat
- Public education & awareness
- Coordinator

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- The (county, city, township, school district, agency) promotes healthy environments including food sources, clean water and habitat for pollinators through existing programs and new opportunities.
- •The City, including its contractors, shall take immediate steps to eliminate the use of systemic insecticides, including neonicotinoids and fipronii on trees, public property and parks including the plants and plant products they purchase. The city shall encourage citizens and businesses to do the same on their property.
- The City will immediately conduct an inventory of all pesticides being used by the city and its contractors. This inventory will be reviewed and updated with the least toxic methods as part of the integrated Pest Management System plan.
- The City shall restore and increase habitat to include native plants with succession blooming, aiming for pollen and nectar sources throughout pollinator seasons. The city shall encourage and allow citizens and residents to participate in pollinator programs and gardening.
- •The City shall take immediate steps to learn or improve and implement an integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan and sustainable land management practices. IMP is a land management strategy that emphasizes least possible disruption to ecosystems and controlling pests with chemical use as a last resort. Practices and principles include: Inspection and monitoring plant health and pests, forecasting and timing weather, pest trapping, reasonable thresholds that allow for plant damage and pests, cultural controls, biological controls, and organic chemical controls. Sustainable land management embraces: building soil health, conserving biodiversity, restoring native vegetation, and promoting composting.
- The City shall assign or appoint a person to oversee and encourage actions of this resolution to include an annual report, public awareness, habitat installation and communication across departments.
- The City shall publish a yearly report, during the anniversary month of this resolution, to its citizens and staff regarding the city's progress during the past year and goals for the upcoming year.
- The City will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken, the
 importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat and encourage residents and
 businesses to use similar pollinator protection practices.
- The City shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, The Governor of Minnesota, State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Contributors: Humming for Bees, Pesticide Action Network, Pollinate Minnesota, Pollinator Friendly Alliance 4/2017.



Integrated Pest Management Plan

Approach to solving pest problems that applies knowledge about pests and plants to prevent plant damage early before it becomes a problem and uses the least toxic options first.



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

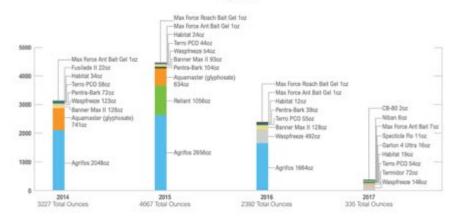
- The IPM plan was developed with an ecosystembased strategy that focuses on long term prevention of pests
- The IPM plan establishes clear criteria for acceptable circumstances in which using an organic or low-level pesticide is prioritized.
- The IPM plan presents a balanced approach between proper cultural practices, preventative practices, and the use of pesticides.
- The IPM plan exceeds standards and regulations set forth by federal, State and County agencies.



Strategies

Conventional Pesticide Use

Conventional Pesticides Proportional Usage Declined 86% From Previous Year



The diagram above shows conventional pesticide applications over the past four years. Overall, the use of conventional pesticides dramatically declined with 86% less conventional product applied in 2017 compared to the previous year.

This is in keeping with the long-term strategy is to favor manual methods supplemented with organic treatments while minimizing the need for synthetic chemical applications. IPM will vary each year based on the types of pests, risks, and conditions in the field.

Pesticide use 2014-2017 replaced by IPM



Introduction

Washington County Parks Division has adopted this Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for the grounds, facilities and natural areas it manages. An IPM system establishes a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining cultural, mechanical, physical, bloological and chemical tools to eliminate or mitigate economic, environmental and health damage caused by pests. A pest is an organism considered injurious or unwanted by humans. This can include, but not limited to groups, including animals, plants, fungi, and viruses. The primary audience for the IPM is full-time and seasonal staff in the parks.

Objectives

- Identify cultural, mechanical, physical, biological and chemical control methods to manage noxious plants and pests, parking lot and pavement preservation, trail maintenance, ROW maintenance, turf areas, and natural areas.
- · To reduce pesticide usage.

IPM Decision Making Strategy

An Integrated Pest Management decision shall consist of the following steps:

1	Identify noxious plant/pest species	Proper and accurate ID of pests is essential for choosing the appropriate control method.
2	Monitor and assess the action threshold levels of pests	Some pests and plants can be tolerated at low levels. Monitoring on a regular basis ensures staff is taking action when an action threshold has been reached.
3	Select management methods based on site conditions	Cultural, physical, biological and chemical control methods are reviewed based on site.
4	Record keeping	Staff will record when a management action is taken, including pest identification, population size, distribution, recommendations for future prevention. Records will be maintained at each facility for at least two years.
5	Assess effectiveness of pest management	Using the records the IPM coordinator will review the management methods used and adjust IPM strategies in the future.
6	Tactics for future pest prevention	Park staff will use preventative actions to reduce conditions that attract pests to both the facility grounds and buildings such as proper design, soil preparation, proper planting/irrigation, and mulching practices. Include preventative measures into future and existing structures and designs.
7	Further evaluation	The IPM coordinator will review and update annually.

Strategies



Least toxic options first: burns, oat cover crop, mowing, goats, treat stumps only restoration





Solarize method along trail





Biodiverse Backyard Design Elements



- · Hedgerow, buffer strip
- Trees
- Shrubs
- Flowers
- Veggie and herb garden
- Mulch, wood chip, leaf or mulch piles

- Pathway
- Patio, bench
- Pollinator lawn
- Bird houses
- Pond, water feature





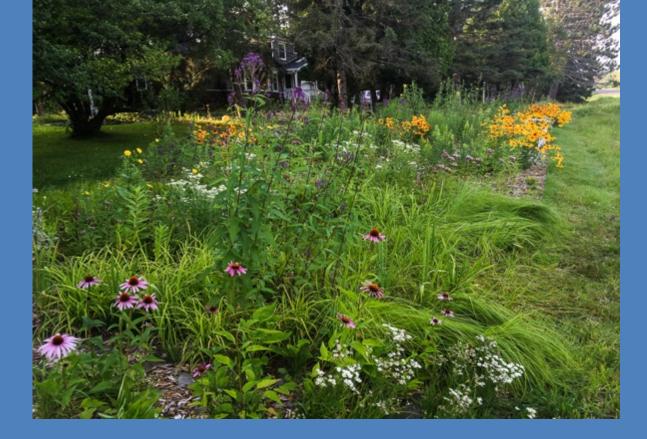








Duluth, Minnesota Curbside Habitat Shoreview Natives



Buffer Strips: provide groundwater filtration, provide shelter along property lines, and add visual interest to borders and lawn edges.



LEARN . PROTECT . UNITE

Biodiverse backyard guides:

Pollinator Friendly Alliance: pollinator lawn, plant lists, suppliers. . . https://www.pollinatorfriendly.org/plants-and-gardening

Lawns to legumes habitat guide & cost share program https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l

University of Minnesota: biodiverse backyard, gardens, biocontrols, plant lists, videos . . . https://ncipmhort.cfans.umn.edu/

Xerces Society: pollinator conservation and habitat resources https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-installation-guides

Karl Foord videos, University of Minnesota: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olo8KG3h3U8

More plant lists:

Heather Holm, biologist/author, pollinator-plant guides: https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com

Xerces plant list:

https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists

Audubon plant database by zip code: https://www.audubon.org/native-plants

Wild Ones St. Croix Savanna Resources: https://stcroixoaksavanna.wildones.org

Plant, trees and shrubs for pollinators lists: https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com

Minnesota wildflowers database by LCCMR: https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info



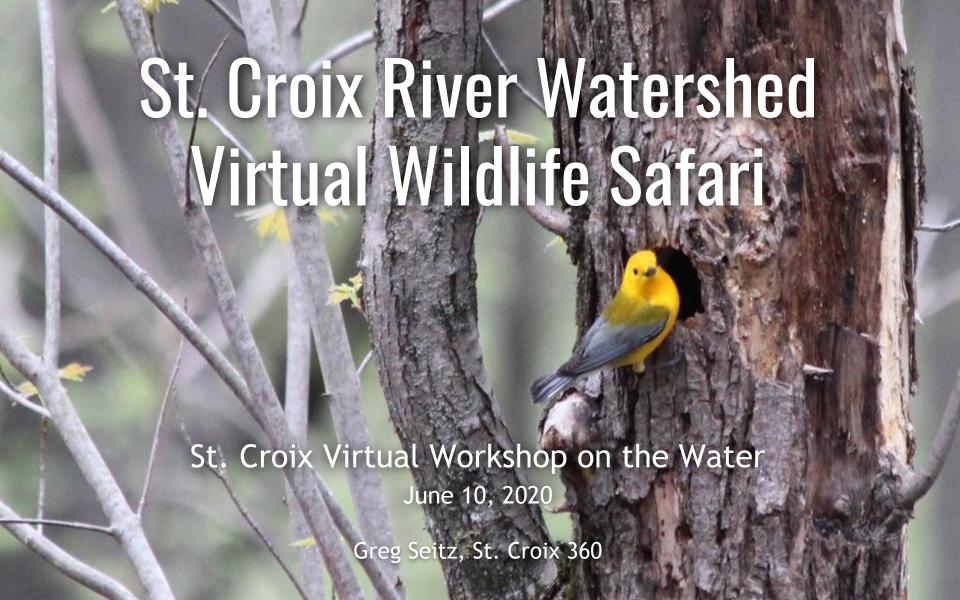
POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE

Join us to protect pollinators
Volunteer . Participate . Support



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE

www.pollinatorfriendly.org laurie@pollinatorfriendly.org



St. Croix River country is home to wonderful wildlife.















Different species have complex needs to survive.

Habitat

Eastern
meadowlark





Climate conditions



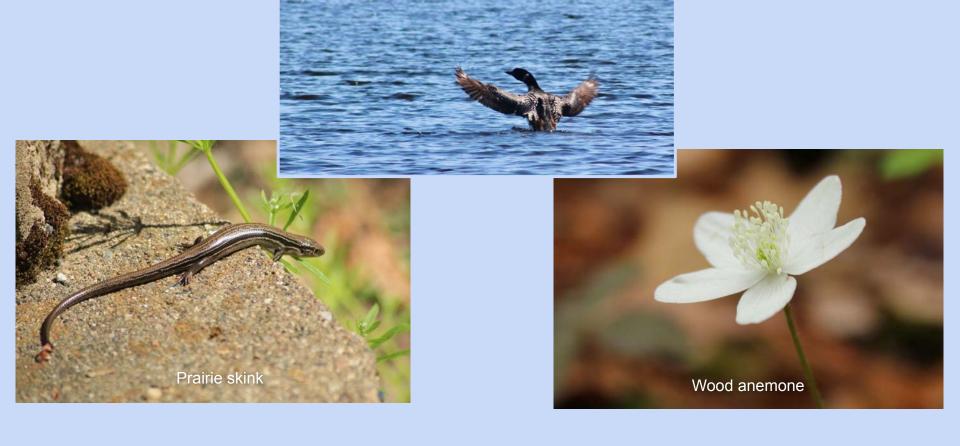
Natural ecosystems



Reproductive relationships



East meets west meets north in the St. Croix watershed. That means there are many different species here.



Plentiful protected places provide habitat and opportunities to observe wildlife.



William O'Brien State Park

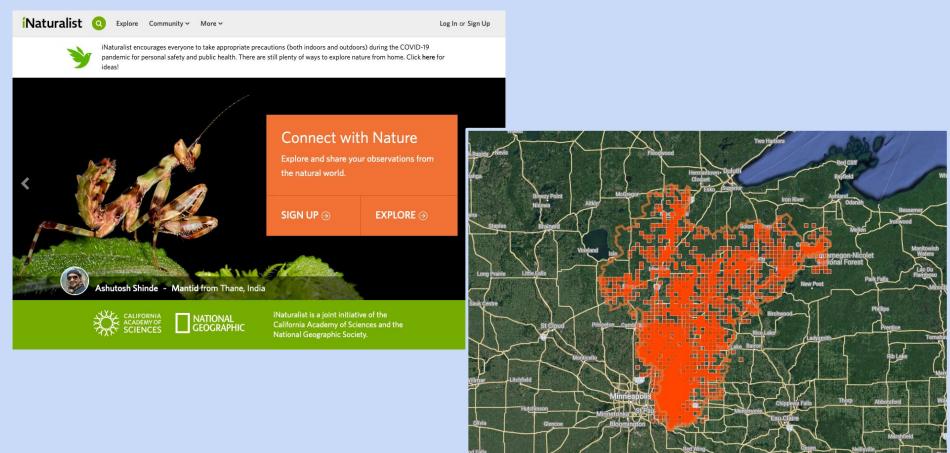


Standing Cedars

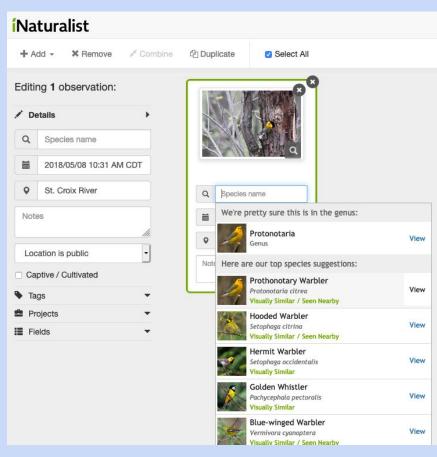


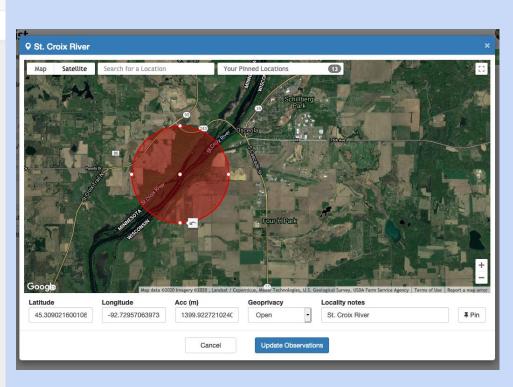
Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway

Explore, learn, and document what you see on a website and app called iNaturalist

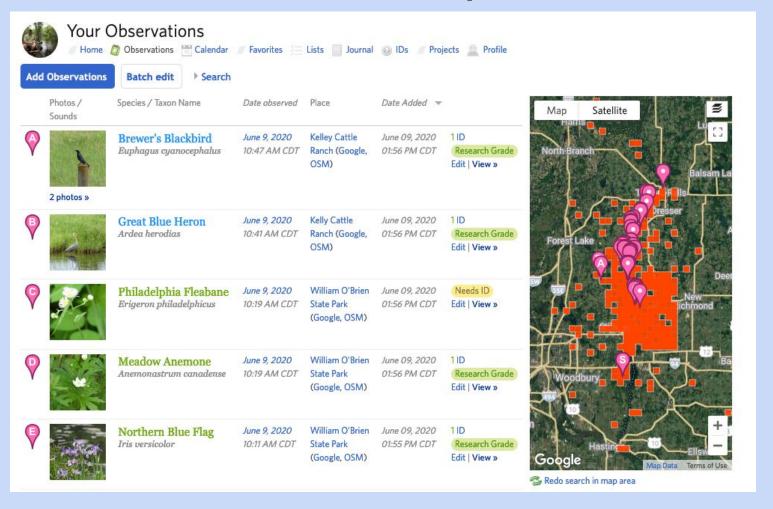


Add your own observations of plants and animals.

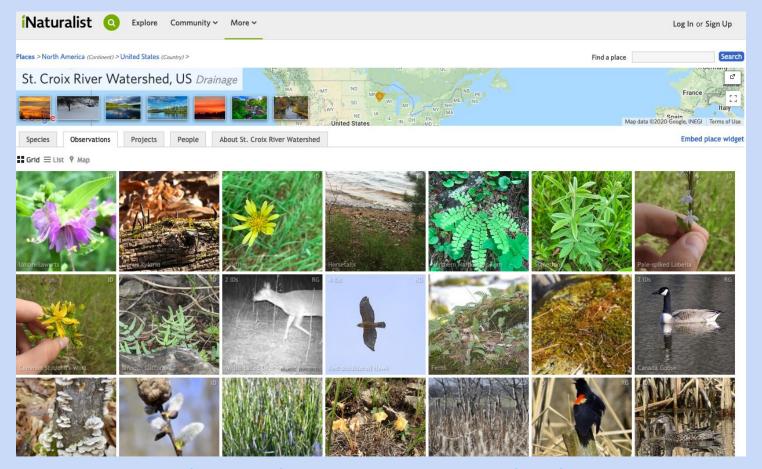




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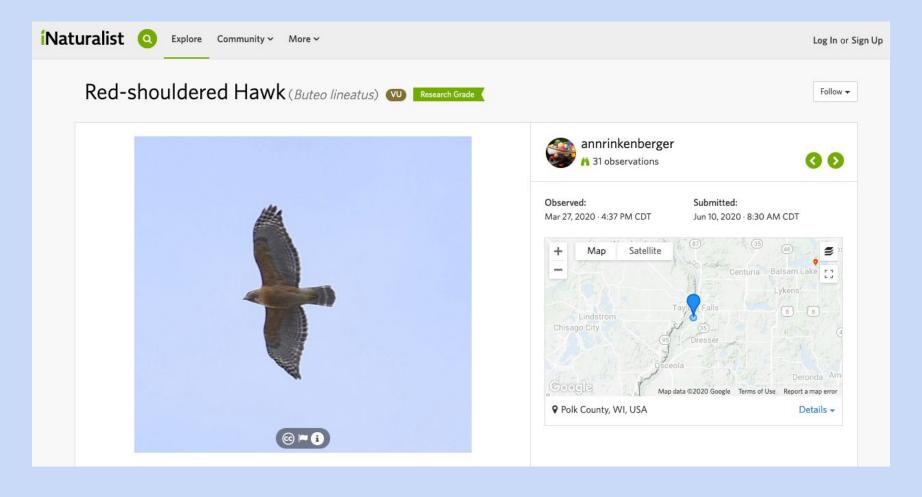


Explore observations made by other people in the watershed.



https://www.inaturalist.org/places/st-croix-river-watershed

Explore observations made by other people in the watershed.





St. Croix Snaketail



Wilson's Snipe



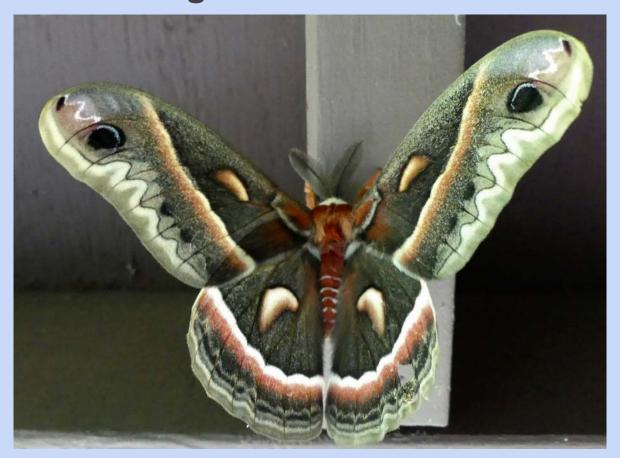
Kittentails



Brittle Prickly-Pear Cactus

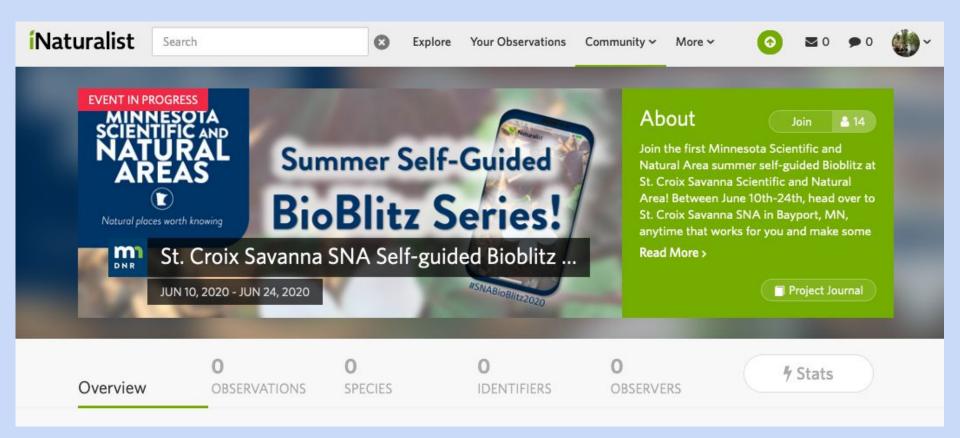


Sand fameflower



Cecropia Moth

Happening now: Virtual BioBlitz in Bayport



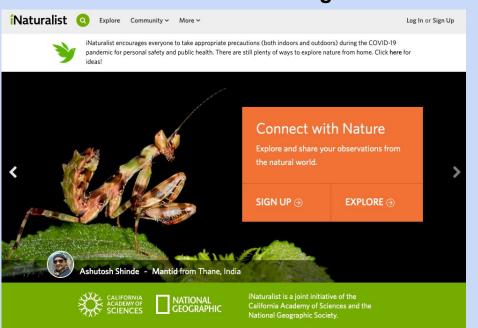
https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/st-croix-savanna-sna-self-guided-bioblitz-2020

Questions?

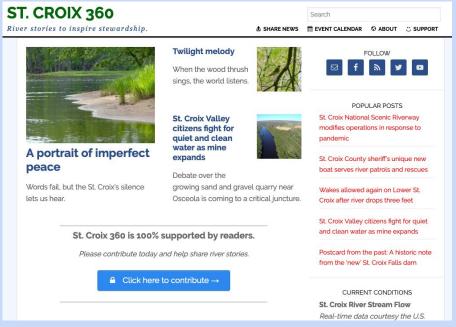


More information

www.inaturalist.org



www.stcroix360.com



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