

Pollinator Protection Efforts in Dane County

Mindy Habecker, Dane County UW Extension



Animal pollinators aid reproduction in 85% of flowering plants, and account for 35% of global crop production



Pollinator Decline...possible causes



- › Pests
- › Pathogens
- › Habitat loss
- › Insecticide exposure
- › Nutritional deficiency
- › Extreme weather events

Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force



Sridharan, Lynn-Miller, Marsden, Liebl, Habecker, Locke, Bessetti, Carpenter

Task Force charge:

- › Review current practices that affect pollinator habitat and health
- › Communicate and collaborate with:
 - County departments
 - Municipalities in Dane County
- › Provide guidance for:
 - County departments
 - Residents, businesses, non-profits
- › Explore public-private partnerships to help address the issue



REPORT TO THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dane County Pollinator Protection Task Force

September 2015



Tabletop Display Board



Goals for Pollinator Protection

1. Expand education and outreach efforts



Michael Murray



Squash Blossom



Education and Outreach Efforts

- Developed a technical review team
- Creating educational materials and activities
- Providing educational resources
- Providing presentations, workshops, and outreach at events
- Training other outreach providers
- Developing public educational gardens
- Creating incentives program for schools and communities



Planting garden at Centro Hispano

Education and Outreach



Event at Olbrich Botanical Garden and workshop at UW Arboretum



Goals for Pollinator Protection

2. Maximize pollinator-friendly land use and management



John Hart - State



COUNTY AGENCY

OFFER TO LEASE
AGRICULTURAL LAND
Department of Administration
Purchasing Division

Dane County Land and Water Resources

Pollinator Protection Efforts with Dane County Departments



Anderson Park

- Land and Water Resources Department
 - Park Division
 - Lakes and Watershed
 - Land Conservation
- Regional Airport
- Public Works, Highway and Transportation
- Henry Vilas Zoo
- County Facilities Management

Pollinator Protection Efforts with Dane County Departments



- Assess county landscaping for inclusion of pollinator plants (forbs and trees)
- Establish new pollinator-friendly plantings
- Allow pollinator nesting habitat to remain such as dead trees
- Modify mowing practices to maximize bloom time

Pollinator Protection Efforts with Dane County Departments continued



- Work with Friends groups in parks towards pollinator protection and habitat development and monitoring
- Assess pest problems, pesticide use and alternative management

Goals for Pollinator Protection

- Minimize use of insecticides harmful to pollinators



Minimize Use of Insecticides



Workshop at Silverwood Park

- Providing educational materials promoting integrated pest management (IPM)
- Sponsoring or hosting workshops for farmers and landowners to learn best management practices to assist pollinator health and habitat
- Encouraging departments to use IPM approach

Goals for Pollinator Protection

- Support long-term research to inform future efforts



Long Term Research



Advisors and students planning

- Working with a UW Sustainability Class
- Team leadership from UW Entomology, Arboretum, WDNR, City of Madison, UW Extension
- Project goals to research and compile pollinator habitat assessments and evaluation tools
- Develop tools for Dane County for urban and rural use

Thank You!
Questions?

Contact Information:

- Mindy Habecker,
Dane County Extension
habecker@countyofdane.com