POLLINATOR FRIENDLY AMES!



Pollinator Friendly Ames Community Plan

2023 - 2032

Our Website
www.prrcd.org/ames-pollinator-plan/

CITY OF ames™

PRAIRIE RIVERS of Iowa

Table Of Contents

03 Vision and Global Impact

04 Goal 1: Create and enhance habitats that support native pollinator diversity [NATIVE HABITAT]

09 Goal 2: Continuously monitor pollinator abundance and diversity within the City of Ames and urban fringe area over the next 10 years [ABUNDANCE & DIVERSITY]

12 Goal 3: Provide a healthier environment for pollinators [HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT]

14 Goal 4: Deliver marketing strategies and materials to amplify community awareness of the Ames Pollinator-Friendly Community Plan [RAISE AWARENESS]

18 Contact

Vision
& Global Impact

Our Vision

To become a leader in developing and sustaining pollinator habitat that will enrich the quality of life for the human and biological communities of Ames.

Our Global Impact

This framework will support the pollinator community in addressing food insecurity and ecological health, offsetting the impacts of climate change, and serving as an example for other cities around the world.

Goal 1: Create and enhance habitats that support native pollinator diversity







Strategy 1: Increase the number of households possessing native pollinator habitat by 50%

Education

Action 1: Over 10 years, the number of Ames households able to identify five native or nonnative plants in their yard will increase by fifty percent

Implementation Tasks:

- Distribute information about native plants, pollinator decline, and examples of native landscaping to: homeowner associations (HOAs), neighborhood associations, new homeowners, and neighborhoods located in areas of high concrete and low green space
- Present a series of EcoChats on pollinator-friendly yard maintenance and practices annually
- Create materials to educate homeowners on replacing turf to include pollinator habitat
- Educate households on lowering light pollution to lower harmful impacts on nocturnal pollinators and other insects

Action 2: Engage and educate landscape and plant material suppliers to sell Iowa-native plants, especially those that are most beneficial to pollinators

Implementation Tasks:

- Distribute list of native plant suppliers to Ames households

Action 3: Present annually to landowners owning one acre or more, explaining pollinator importance and their decline

Implementation Tasks:

- Distribute information outlining clear steps to successful establishment and management of native plants for areas that are one acre or larger
- Distribute a simple, step-by-step guide describing the growing process, timeline, and importance of maintaining pollinator habitat
- Distribute welcome guides to new homeowners about the City of Ames' pollinator goals and native landscape maintenance, possibly through real estate agents or HOAs

Research

Action 5: Quantify the number of households, commercial property, and ISU property currently possessing pollinator gardens/habitat

Policy

Action 1: Over 10 years, the number of Ames households able to identify five native or nonnative plants in their yard will increase by fifty percent

Implementation Tasks:

- Provide HOAs with an example native plant and polliantor friendly covenant template

Action 3: Present annually to landowners owning one acre or more, explaining pollinator importance and their decline

Implementation Tasks:

- Review the Ames Smart Watershed Cost Share Rebate programs for considering HOAs and landowners owning over one acre of land

Action 4: Coordinate a way to help with removal of invasive plants

Implementation Tasks:

- Create a volunteer group to remove invasives
- Create a list of resources

Partnerships

Action 2: Engage and educate landscape and plant material suppliers to sell Iowa-native plants, especially those that are most beneficial to pollinators

Implementation Tasks:

- Work with native plant suppliers to promote the Ames Smart Watersheds Cost Share Rebate programs to Ames residents

Action 3: Present annually to landowners owning one acre or more, explaining pollinator importance and their decline

Implementation Tasks:

- Coordinate native landscape professionals with Ames businesses and landowners owning an acre or more, including ISU, to plant native plants

Strategy 2: Double the current amount of native pollinator habitat on public properties in Ames corporate limits and urban fringe over the next 10 years

Education

Action 1: Identify and assist in annual training opportunities for City of Ames staff about pollinator habitat and related landscape management and protection practices

Action 2: Create educational materials to educate the public about pollinators and their habitat requirements

Implementation Tasks:

- Connect pollinator conservation with water quality, stormwater runoff, and other environmental issues
- Include both easy and advanced examples of how to support pollinators at home (eg, from a few potted native plants to yard conversions)

Action 3: Plant educational pollinator plots near community gardens

Implementation Tasks:

- Recruit resident groups to establish native pollinator plots near community gardens
- Create and post educational resources about the benefits of native pollinators, other beneficial insects, and pollinator-friendly gardening practices, such as lowering the broad application of insecticides

Research

Action 7: Determine baseline amount of natural habitat on public land in Ames corporate limits and urban fringe

Policy

Action 4: Review city landscape and park management practices to meet sustainability and pollinator support goals

Action 5: Review City of Ames policies annually to determine recommendations for creating new policies that would add pollinator-supportive plants to public land

Action 6: Evaluate Capital Improvement Plan projects and other city projects for inclusion of native pollinator habitat

Implementation Tasks:

- Create a shortlist of qualified native landscape professionals to be contracted for city plantings, burns, and maintenance
- Create a list of short-stature plants that can be utilized in right-of-ways to maintain required sight distance for City property
- Create a list of shade tolerant native plants to utilize in City woodlands and stream restoration projects

Partnerships

Action 8: Engage and educate landscape and plant material suppliers to sell Iowa-native plants, especially those that are most beneficial to pollinators

Implementation Tasks:

- Engage annually with the resident-driven Ames Climate Action Team and City of Ames Sustainability Coordinator during implementation of the Ames Climate Action Plan

Goal 2: Continuously monitor pollinator abundance and diversity within the City of Ames and urban fringe area over the next 10 years











Strategy 1: Over the next 10 years, support pollinator species, including those listed as imperiled by federal, state, and research authorities, in order to begin restoring pollinator populations

Education

Action 1: Deliver public outreach materials focusing on different pollinators native to Iowa and how residents, community gardens, and businesses can help them

Action 2: Create a tailored list of native pollinators, both common and imperiled, that will likely benefit from urban conservation efforts in Ames

Implementation Tasks:

- Include these native pollinators' host and foraging plants by year 2024

Action 3: Include the host plants and nectar/pollen plants of imperiled pollinators in the City of Ames' native planting lists and planting projects

Action 4: Present basic background information on native pollinators to three entities per year, including entities that are private, public, non-profits, government, HOAs, and businesses

Action 5: Build citizen understanding of ecologically-beneficial green spaces through signage along with progressive educational and marketing campaigns each year

Implementation Tasks:

- Signage will include QR codes that link members of the public to additional information online through the Ames Pollinator-Friendly Community web page or other sources

Research

Action 6: Assess and create a baseline of current pollinator abundance and number of species in the City of Ames and urban fringe, and report findings to the public

Action 7: Create a simplified, Story County-specific pollinator checklist to engage the public and to possibly be used for crowd-sourced/community science data collection

Action 8: Hold annual pollinator survey (assessing abundance and number of species)beginning in 2024, utilizing local community science programs in conjunction with a standardized survey Report findings to the public annually

Implementation Tasks:

- Create a group for Ames on iNaturalist, Bumble Bee Watch, the Iowa Bumble Bee Atlas, and other online community science organizations

Partnerships

Action 6: Engage with Insects of Iowa, Reiman Gardens' Iowa Butterfly Survey Network and the Iowa Bumble Bee Atlas to train and organize community scientists

Goal 3: Provide a healthier environment for pollinators





Strategy 1: Over the next 10 years, reduce pesticide use, especially that of neonicotinoids, across the City of Ames

Education

Action 1: Educate HOA board members and individual households on the possible harmful effects of pesticides and fertilizers on the health of pollinators, the environment, pets, and humans

Implementation Tasks:

- Include these native pollinators' host and foraging plants by year 2024

Action 2: Create educational materials describing harmful vs harmless insects

Implementation Tasks:

- Distribute information about solitary wasps and other insects

Action 4: Have homeowners sign a pledge to end or lower their outdoor pesticide use (including neonicotinoids)

Research

Action 9: Seek and apply for grants that support the City of Ames in creating pollinator supportive actions

Policy

Action 5: Present the impacts of pesticides on pollinators to the Ames City Council

Action 6: Work with the City of Ames to stop all use of neonicotinoid insecticide use in Parks

Action 7: Continually assess City of Ames mosquito fogging and other pest control for best management practices and the implementation of Integrated Pest Management; especially in park and playground areas, along with preschools and daycares to lower child exposure to pesticides

Action 8: Work with 20 businesses, HOAs, ISU, and churches with large amounts of turf and lawn to sign a pledge to become neonicotinoid-free by 2033

Partnerships

Action 3: Encourage local nurseries/greenhouses/growers to provide "bee-safe", insecticide-free plants and seeds

Goal 4: Deliver marketing strategies and materials to amplify community awareness of the Pollinator-Friendly Ames Community Plan





Strategy 1: Establish a Pollinator-Friendly Planning Team comprised of Ames residents to oversee the implementation of the 10-year Pollinator-Friendly Ames Community Plan

All

Action 1: The task force will meet at least three times per year to set annual goals, move the plan forward, and make necessary updates and adjustments to the plan

Action 2: Members will provide updates as needed to the Ames City Council on the plan's progress and accomplishments

Action 3: Members will provide an annual report updating the public on plan progress and accomplishments

Action 4: Members will create an annual display at the Ames EcoFair (or other sustainability event) to communicate plan progress and accomplishments to the community in person

Action 5: Members will create a communication and marketing plan to inform the public about the plan and ongoing projects

Strategy 2: Develop infrastructure to deliver the plan and its accomplishments to the public each year

Education

Action 1: Create a webpage to centralize digital information about the Pollinator Friendly Ames Community Plan

Implementation Tasks:

- Webpage should include plan progress, links to Bird Friendly Iowa and other pollinator resources, links to award and rebate applications, informational documents, and an interactive pollinator habitat map showcasing pollinator habitat created through the plan's efforts

Action 2: Create a logo that is identifiable with the Pollinator-Friendly Ames

Action 3: Create an official pollinator for Pollinator Friendly Ames

Action 4: Create or utilize existing social media accounts to communicate the plan's goals, progress, events, and ways to be involved

Implementation Tasks:

- Assign an administrator and moderator for social media accounts
- Create an annual social media plan for accounts

Action 5: Create a mobile display to rotate among city buildings and other areas with substantial public interface to provide information about the Pollinator-Friendly Ames Community Plan

Strategy 3: Celebrate pollinators and community action through an annual, public pollinator celebration during National Pollinator Week at the Ames Farmers Market or other public event

Research

Action 2: Hold an annual pollinator garden tour

Action 3: Award "Pollinator surveyor of the year" to the resident that has done the most citizen science to survey thier yard

Policy

Action 5: Mayor reads Proclamation announcing the official pollinator of the City of Ames, and Ames' pledge to support and protect pollinators and their health

Partnerships

Action 1: Recognize businesses, HOAs, churches, etc for incorporating pollinator-friendly habitat and practices

Implementation Tasks:

- Create list of businesses on website

Contact



More Information

Our Website
www.prrcd.org/ames-pollinator-plan/

Questions?
krinicker@prrcd.org