



## Stewardship Grant Lakeville: Valley Lake Park Pollinator Garden



The pollinator garden provides habitat and native flowers for butterflies and other pollinators while improving water quality and enhancing water infiltration.

### Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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### Supporting pollinators and improving water quality

Butterflies and other pollinators are essential for our ecosystem and the food we eat. The native plants in pollinator gardens are an aesthetically pleasing alternative to turf grass. Once native plants are established, they require much less inputs (chemicals, nutrients, water) than turf grass to maintain. Native plants, and their deep roots, help water infiltrate into the soil resulting in less stormwater runoff and more water infiltration.

The City of Lakeville and the Rotary Club of Lakeville proposed creating a pollinator garden in Valley Lake Park that aligned with the goals of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organizations' Stewardship Grant Program.

Approximately 8,000 square feet east of the Valley Lake Park shelter was the preferred location for the pollinator garden. The site is within the park with walking trails, a playground, public fishing dock and beach, and picnic shelters.

Site preparations began in the summer of 2016. City staff blended compost into the soil, creating an optimal soil bed for the pollinator garden. Next, a native grass and flower seed was spread and plants were planted that is specifically designed to attract pollinators. The Rotary Club coordinated volunteers to install plants, mulch paths, and install a split rail fence. Parkview Elementary students and staff planted clusters of potted native flowering plants and shrubs. Interpretive signs inform visitors of the benefits of pollinators and things they can do to provide habitat in their yards or work places.

To inform the public, the City of Lakeville produced two Youtube videos; one includes an interview with VRWJPO staff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUhCKXTdovo>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-lyd5eIGsM>.

### Problems:

- Turf grass requires weekly maintenance as well as significant inputs (chemicals, nutrients and water).
- Turf grass does not effectively infiltrate stormwater.
- Turf grass provides no benefits to pollinators.

### Actions:

- Prepare site soils.
- Involve school students and staff.
- Spread seed and plant native plants
- Design and install interpretive signs.
- Promote stewardship of water resources.

### Benefits:

- Site and signs promote use of native plants to improve water quality, water conservation, and habitat diversity.
- Native plants are more sustainable and require less inputs than turf grass.
- A diversity of native plants benefits butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.
- Local demonstration site and example to businesses and homeowners.
- Stewardship and educational experience for park users and students.
- Pleasing aesthetics

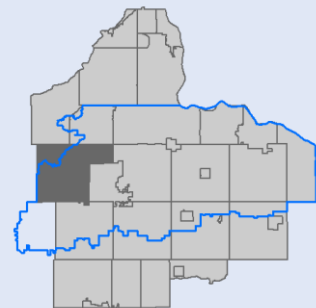
### Costs and contributions:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization: \$5,000 stewardship grant
- Lakeville Rotary: \$8,000
- City of Lakeville: in-kind services for design assistance, construction administration, sign development and installation, restoration, maintenance, and remainder of project costs; and video production
- Parkview Elementary students and staff: in-kind services for planting



A project completed cooperatively by:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- City of Lakeville
- Rotary Club of Lakeville



City of Lakeville, MN  
off Hamburg Ave. south  
of Lakeville Blvd.