

Pollinator Meadow Mix Information Sheet

- **What did we do and why?** In the Fall of 2015 the Village established a Pilot Program to re-establish native pollinator landscape on several select properties (a portion of Kuhn Road and four flood buyout properties on Illini Drive and Silverleaf Boulevard). The Village is working with The Conservation Foundation to demonstrate the value of planting sustainable, native vegetation that will help combat the decline of populations of pollinators such as hummingbirds, butterflies and other insects. Over the long term converting typical turf grass sites into pollinator meadows reduces maintenance costs and fuel consumption, increases water absorption and increases natural mitigation of airborne carbon.
- **What can we expect this year?** The process of establishing healthy, native pollinator vegetation takes 2 – 3 years. In this first growing season the planting sites will primarily produce what is referred to as “cover crop”. We may see some black-eyed Susan this year, but most of what we see will simply be green. Along with the cover crop we may also see some “pollinator weeds” such as red and white clover and wild violet. These types of non-threatening vegetation will not be targeted in the maintenance plan and will naturally decline over time as the prairie matures.
- **What type of maintenance will be done?** During this first year maintenance involves periodic mowing to keep weeds from going to seed. When the cover crop reaches 18-24 inches a high mowing will be done to control weeds such as Queen Anne’s lace, wild lettuce, lamb’s quarters, fox tail and more. Mowing will occur several times in the first year, depending on the rate of growth. Spot herbiciding will also be performed if invasive weeds such as Canada or bull thistle, teasel or wild parsnip are present.
- **Are other agencies doing similar projects?** The Conservation Foundation and other groups are working hard to promote the re-establishment of native prairies and pollinator sites throughout the area. Many corporate campuses, local schools, universities and cities and villages are converting large areas that were traditionally turf grass to native plantings. Carol Stream is one of the very first in the area to adopt a pilot program to establish native pollinator plantings adjacent to a local road. The pilot program will be observed by The Conservation Foundation and evaluated by the Village over the next several years.



Fully-established pollinator meadow

To learn more about The Conservation Foundation’s pollinator meadow mix initiative and their other programs for homeowners please visit their website:

www.theconservationfoundation.org