

Habitat

Land and Water Stewardship Services Project Profile

POLLINATOR HABITAT PLAN

Bluff Valley Farm Inc.

Wabasha County, Minnesota

For The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) -Minnesota



Pollinator Habitat Assessment of Existing

Table 1 provides a quantitative assessment of Bluff Valley Farm (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, 2011).

Table 1: Pollinator Habitat Assessment

Landscape Features	Existing Condition
Percent of Natural or Semi-natural vegetation within 1/4 mile of project area	61%
Dominant vegetative cover in non-cropped area within 1/4 mile of project area	Mix of Native, Naturalized, and Invasive species
Farmscape Features	Existing Condition
Percentage of farm that is in natural or semi-natural habitat	80%

Potential Pollinator Habitat

- Herbaceous
- Shrubs
- Existing Disturbed Habitat

Pesticide Mitigation

- Conifer Planting

Roads

- New Road
- Drive
- Field Road
- Perennial Streams
- Pond
- Property Line

Bluff Valley Farm is a 160 acre farm focused on organic permaculture agriculture that depends on a healthy population of pollinators. The Pollinator Habitat Plan contains detailed information on how to improve the quality and quantity of pollinator habitat provided on the farm. Some of the goals outlined in the plan are to:

Increase pollinator foraging habitat by:

- Converting 10% of the existing non-cropped areas to pollinator habitat with a high percentage of forbs and add flowering shrubs
- Increasing the quality and diversity of existing habitat by controlling invasive species, introducing a prescribed fire regime, eliminating insecticide drift from adjacent properties, and using organic insecticides that are non-toxic to pollinators
- Providing a source of clean water through the addition of 50 foot buffers along the streams that flow through the farm on their way to the Mississippi River
- Providing non-invasive annual flowering cover crops and allowing them to bloom for pollinator foraging
- Providing continuous foraging habitat with 3 to 4 species in bloom per season
- Implementing a rotational grazing plan that will allow forbs to survive for pollinator foraging throughout the seasons

Increase pollinator nesting habitat by:

- Seeding with native pollinator seed mix that contains bunch grass
- Providing designated brush piles and field stone piles
- Providing areas of untilled, well drained bare ground, or with sparse vegetation