



An Integrated Management Approach to Promoting Pollinator Health in the Adirondack Region



Background Information

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and beetles are essential components to our food supply and to the health of the Adirondack ecosystem. There are many threats to pollinators including habitat loss, fragmentation, and pesticide use that are driving rapid declines of pollinator species. The recent decline of pollinators has only recently become a serious environmental focus globally. The imminent collapse of food systems and ecosystems from low pollinator populations has received attention from environmental organizations throughout the country as declines in population are estimated to be about *45% in the past 30 years*. The ADK Action Pollinator Project joins these organizations as it aims to mitigate pollinator stressors through individual and collective action in the Adirondacks Region. The goal is to rewild open spaces with native plant species to attract and create habitat for native pollinators. This summer, I worked on two ADK Action projects that encompass different solutions to addressing the problem of habitat loss and pollinator decline in the ADKs.

Pollinator Conscious Roadside Management for Municipalities

Goal: Educate stakeholders about roadside management strategies for pollinators and engage community members to increase participation

Strategies: Habitat loss is a large driver of declines in pollinator health. The ~ 3 meters off each side of roadways provides a great opportunity for pollinator habitat. As proven in cases studies in Florida and Michigan, transforming roadsides by mowing once a year and spreading native wildflowers can drastically increase and connect pollinator populations.

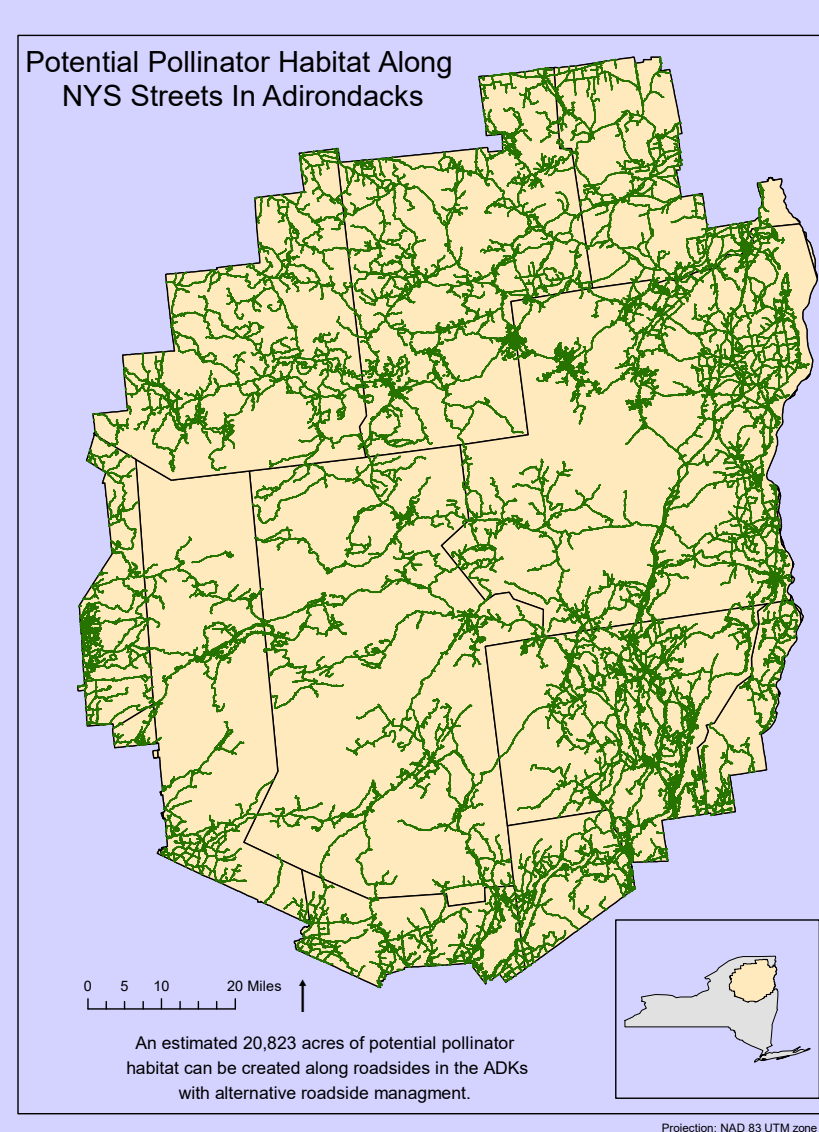
Solutions: I created an informational package and maps to demonstrate the opportunity roadsides provide for pollinators.

1. Maintenance Package

For town members and municipalities to understand the cost and time savings as well as impacts on pollinators to employ simple roadside strategies.

2. ADK Pollinator Habitat Map

Describes potential pollinator habitat that could be created along roadsides in the ADK (over 20,000 acres).



Pollinator Stewardship For Homeowners, Local Businesses, and Landowners

Goal: Increase awareness about declining pollinator population impacts, education about native pollinator biology, and offer opportunities for individual action.

Strategies: Pollinator stewardship involves rewilding our spaces. This involves planting native wildflowers in a garden, leaving grassy areas unmowed, and refraining from picking up sticks, leaves, and plant trimmings. There are also other additional steps an avid pollinator steward can do such as build a bee house, but simply leaving your space be and planting native plants will do a lot for pollinator populations.

Solutions: I put together several projects education tools to communicate these strategies for pollinators.

1. Pollinator Stewardship Calendar

A seasonal calendar describing the different activities a pollinator conscious homeowner could do during the different times of the year.

2. Pollinator-Host Plant Guide

An info graphic for each of the 7 different types of pollinators and which plants attract them



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