

POLLINATOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



2015-2018



“...EVEN THE INSECTS IN MY PATH ARE NOT LOAFERS, BUT HAVE THEIR SPECIAL ERRANDS.”
HENRY DAVID THOREAU - 1906

MISSION

To increase the pollinator population on Bainbridge Island by reducing or eliminating the use of harmful pesticides, increasing habitat by creating access to green space within the built environment, and by increasing public awareness about the importance of pollinators and environmental threats they currently face.

NARRATIVE

Pollinators face a number of difficulties in modern society and as a result many species are threatened and their populations are in decline. The Pollinator improvement Project (PiP) is designed to be a collaborative effort between independent government districts on Bainbridge Island and additionally, through public-private partnerships developed in conjunction with the project for the purpose of addressing some of these difficulties at the local level.

The main component is to create an environment that is safe for pollinators by reducing or eliminating products containing neonicotinoids from public property. We hope to gain unanimous support from all of the public agencies on the Island, to form a government coalition that is willing to take a unified stand against the use of systemic insecticides and pesticides. The purpose of this is to lead by example, provide the citizens of Bainbridge Island with environmentally sustainable alternatives to weed and pest control, and through a series of educational and outreach campaigns, encourage them to join the movement by choice. These campaigns would be positive in nature – the goal being to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators to human existence, highlight the impact systemic insecticides use has on pollinators, and provide information regarding safe alternatives.

Once the environment is more favorable for pollinators, the second phase will be initiated. This entails the creation of a pollinator corridor that will link the public property on Madison Avenue, creating a pathway for pollinators to access greenspace through the built environment. We will encourage private businesses along the corridor to participate, and will also encourage citizens to create pollinator patches on their private property, in hopes of increasing the habitat for pollinators island-wide. The patches would be mapped, and used to link greenspaces together through private, or partner property thereby enabling more corridors to develop organically. A marketing campaign will be developed to highlight the project, and the corridor. The goal is to create a brochure of the corridor and partner properties who have incorporated elements of the project on their properties. The brochure will highlight key areas of the corridor and encourage citizens, and tourists alike, to explore the corridor and learn more about the project.

Through this project, we hope to create a lasting impact by expanding awareness far beyond the boundaries of Bainbridge Island by encouraging neighboring jurisdictions to incorporate elements from the project into their communities, and by creating a template for use in other communities.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Partner with other government agencies on Bainbridge Island to reduce the application of neonicotinoids on Bainbridge Island public property, to be codified by resolution prior to Pollinator Awareness Week 2016; encourage the use of organic and/or non-chemical weed and pest control on private property through public outreach and education campaigns. Public outreach and educational campaigns will include:
 - Dedicated page on the City website for pollinators
 - Informational handouts for distribution at City and downtown locations
 - Collaborate with PHC ASANI INC (ASANI) and Commodore Options School to engage students in different grade levels in pollinator discovery project called the Bee's Eye View, culminating with middle school students presenting their findings to City Council prior to Pollinator Awareness Week 2016 (Bee's Eye View Project Scope)
 - Initiate a pollinator-themed art competition; display art in downtown business windows;
 - Utilize art from competition in wayfinding displays associated with pollinator corridor (discussed below)
2. Increase the natural habitat of pollinators on Bainbridge Island, by:
 - Incorporating requirements for pollinator friendly plants into the Landscape Chapter of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code
 - Connecting greenspaces on the island by integrating pollinator friendly plants into the built environment, specifically within the downtown corridor
 - Creating a pollinator-friendly corridor through Waterfront Park, running north the length of Madison Avenue from the intersection of Bjune Dr SE to the intersection of SR-305 by collaborating with the Islands government agencies, and
 - Encouraging public participation through the use of pollinator patches, which could be mapped, and used to connect greenspace through private property
3. Increase public awareness on the critical importance of pollinators on a broad scale by exposing and educating tourists and other visitors
4. Encourage neighboring jurisdictions to create/expand pollinator friendly habitat; create a program implementation template for other jurisdictions to use
5. Promote urban/backyard bee keeping practices on Bainbridge Island
6. Increase tourism to the Island by marketing/highlighting the pollinator corridor and the project; create brochure similar to the waterfront trail flyer, highlighting the corridor and points of interest along the way. Partner locations could be included on the map, highlighted as a point of interest – depending on how they link into the project plan

PROJECT PARTNERS

Current Partnerships:

- ASANI
- Bainbridge Island School District
- Bainbridge Island Fire Department
- Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District
- Kitsap Regional Library – Bainbridge Island Library
- Bay Hay and Feed
- Bloedel Reserve
- Friends of the Farms
- Charles Schafer
- Islandwood
- Sustainable Bainbridge
- Sweetlife Farm
- Bainbridge Community Broadcasting
- Grow Community
- Fischer Bouma Partnership
- Kitsap Conservation District

Role of Partners

The role, and level of involvement will vary by partner, and each organizations ability to engage. Ideally, partners will be able to define their involvement based on the mission, and capability of their particular organization, and how they can best support the mission and project goals.

PROPOSED BUDGET

TBD

PROPOSED FUNDING OPTIONS

- Rotary Grant – Possible Judd Huney Project
- Possible in-kind design by local firm
- In-kind donations by volunteers
- Fundraising

BEE'S EYE VIEW PROJECT SCOPE (COMMODORE OPTIONS SCHOOL)

Engage students in a year-long project designed to help them understand the importance of pollinators in the natural environment

Raise awareness of the plight of pollinators, their habitats, and the consequences of inaction

Prepare and present information to City Council to encourage their support of the project by explaining why enhancing and protecting foraging areas are needed; outline the process for completion of the project

Work in collaboration with project partners to establish the pollinator corridor; use strip of grass located on Madison Ave, from the roundabout to the Aquatic Center and BSD administration offices as a model for the project

Learning Objectives:

- What is a pollinator?
- Who are the pollinators?
- Why is pollination important for our survival?
- What are the “roadblocks” for pollinators?
- How can we help pollinators overcome these roadblocks?
- What kind of habitat do pollinators need to survive?
- What do pollinators eat?
- What are pollinator corridors and why does Bainbridge Island need them?

The Curriculum:

Elementary Level

- Create a logo to represent PiP for the website and on all communications
- Help in the preparation of habitats for pollinators (bee blocks, hollow logs, etc.)
- Create a story, poem, song, or script for the “Bee’s Eye View” video
- Contribute the students’ pollinator related art, poems, and songs, to be featured during Pollinator Awareness Week 2016

Middle School

- Basic knowledge of pollination, anatomy of a flower, vocabulary, and issues related to pollination, etc.
- Research the various pollinators native to Bainbridge Island; prepare a presentation based on that research.
- Research the use of the pesticide class “neonicotinoids” and the effect it has on pollinators; research alternative products and methods that do not negatively impact pollinators
- Use Google Earth to locate each of the student’s homes; create a map using the information, showing the dispersal of student homes throughout the Island. Look for areas of the Island where there is no student access and investigate public land use and how to best link create pathways to greenspace.
- Using Commodore Options School (COS) shop, have students build bee blocks and habitats that can be installed both along the corridor and student homes. Purchase mason bees for these habitats.
- Help with “Bee’s Eye View” project; filming, script writing, etc.
- Prepare a short oral presentation that could be used when asking for donations of materials (plants, wood scraps) for the project
- Write a financial aid grant for PiP
- Create marketing materials (slogans, t-shirts, shopping bags, bumper stickers, bee friendly plaques) related to PiP
- Build mason bee blocks and distribute to all COS students
- Prepare a presentation on the harmful effects of neonicotinoids and alternative treatments for plants at an IGWG meeting
- Research and make a display of products containing neonicotinoids that are household garden products
- Contribute to COBI and ASANI websites

High School

- “Bee’s Eye View” project will be the responsibility of a select group of HS students; project will use a drone to mimic the flight of a pollinator as it makes use of the pollinator corridor
- Help with multiage groups for installation of bee blocks and habitats
- Provide tech support for the creation of the slide show presentation for City Council

Projected Outcomes:

- Educate students involved about the importance of pollinators and the preservation of their habitat
- Establish corridors and habitats across the Island, with appropriate vegetation and bee blocks
- Provide “bee keeper” workshops for interested students and parents on the Island; coordinated through the partnership with Charles Shafer and West Sound Beekeepers Association
- Establish involvement in activities related to raising awareness of the issues surrounding pollinators during the month of April
- Empower students with the realization that they can make positive changes within their community
- Help students understand the workings of local government
- Create a map of the island including the corridors; add to GIS
- Create a successful partnership model

PROPOSED LOCATION OF POLLINATOR CORRIDOR

From SR 305 at the WSF terminal, west through Waterfront Park to the intersection of Bjune Dr and Madison Ave, then north on Madison Ave to the intersection of Madison Ave N. and SR 305.

This corridor will link the public property along Madison Ave, with representation from each of the Islands government districts. We will invite private property owners along the corridor to participate as well.

See Appendix A for map of proposed corridor

See Appendix B for a project timeline

See Appendix C for letters of support

APPENDIX B



2015

- Preliminary planning and partnership development
- Present project concept to IGWG
- Bee's Eye View Project underway

2016

Jan-May

- Public education
- Solidify partnerships
- Prep for Pollinator Awareness Week
- Draft resolution template

June

- Public education
- Bee's Eye View presented at Council Meeting
- Pass resolution 2016-11
- Declare June 20-26, 2016 Pollinator Awareness Week

May-Dec

- Public education
- Seek funding leads
- Solidify plans for pollinator corridor
- Begin to update City Code to include flowering plants
- Look into possibility of becoming a Bee City USA city

2017

- Secure funding
- Groundbreaking
- Ongoing awareness initiatives
- Celebrate Pollinator Awareness Week, 2017

2018

- Pollinator Corridor Ribbon Cutting – Pollinator Awareness Week, 2018

APPENDIX C

SWEETLIFE FARM

9631 SUMMERHILL LANE NE
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

Amber Richards
Executive Assistant
City of Bainbridge Island
280 Madison Ave North
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

Ms. Richards,

As long time beekeepers at Sweetlife, we are very encouraged by Pollinator Improvement Project to improve the survival rates for our vital pollinators. Over the years we have had serious problems with honey bee loss and we have often wondered about the role of toxins-particularly those you mention in the project description. We are all aware of the global impact of these biologic agents on honey bee survival and the need for urgent action.

Not only will this project offer improved survivability for our bees and likely higher productivity of fruits and vegetables for all island growers, backyard or wherever, but it will serve as a model approach for other communities.

You have our wholehearted support. We are available to meet with you and/or with IGWG should that be useful.

Sincere thanks for undertaking this effort.

All Best,

Bob Fortner



December 1, 2015

Amber Richards
Executive Assistant
City of Bainbridge Island
280 Madison Ave North
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

Ms. Richards,

It is our pleasure to support the Pollinator Improvement Project. The protection of our pollinator community is of deep concern to our community. Not only are pollinators essential in our food production but, also to the beautiful landscaping around us. At Grow Community we strive to create a harmonious blend between our homes and the surrounding environmental, plant and wildlife communities. We believe that the Pollinator Improvement Project will have a healthy impact on the local pollinator community.

At Grow Community, we believe in living sustainable lives. This includes the enhancement of our local pollinator community. It is our privilege to write this letter in support of the Pollinator Improvement Project being submitted for consideration to the Bainbridge Island Intergovernmental Working Group Program. We fully endorse the city in their efforts and are proud to be a partner in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ron Kaplan, Board Member
GROW Community 1 Neighborhood Association



Amber Richards
Office of Bainbridge Island City Manager
280 Madison Ave
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Sent via Email

November 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Richards:

It is our pleasure to write a letter in support of the Pollinator Improvement Project (PiP) being submitted for consideration to the Bainbridge Island Intergovernmental Working Group Program (IGWG). The objectives outlined in the project proposal closely align with IslandWood's mission, and we believe that the completion of PiP will have a positive impact on the community and our natural environment.

We are pleased to endorse and support the efforts of the City and its partners in this effort.

Sincerely,

Ben Klasky
President and CEO



November 11, 2015

Amber Richards
Executive Assistant
City of Bainbridge Island
280 Madison Ave North
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

Dear Ms. Richards:

We at Asani & PHC Construction are committed to leading the industry in sustainable building. We recognize that a part of this is built on the success of our pollinators. The significant decrease in their numbers is directly caused by human interaction with our surrounding environment. We believe that when a community works together with our city on projects like the Pollinator Improvement Project, it can result in significant benefits for everyone involved, especially in this case, the pollinators!

Therefore, we are more than happy to write this letter in support of the Pollinator Improvement Project being submitted for consideration to the Bainbridge Island Intergovernmental Working Group Program. We fully endorse this project and would be happy to do our part to guarantee its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Lotakis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Greg Lotakis
CEO
PHC Asani Inc

November 13, 2015

Amber Richards

Office of Bainbridge Island City Manager

280 Madison Ave

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Via email

Dear Ms. Richards:

It is my pleasure write a letter in support of the Pollinator Improvement Project (PiP) being submitted for consideration to the Bainbridge Island Intergovernmental Working Group Program (IGWG). The objectives outlined in the project proposal closely align with Bloedel Reserve's mission, and I believe that the completion of PiP will have a positive impact on the community. I fully endorse the efforts of the City and its partners in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Andresen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sue" being more prominent than the last name "Andresen".

Sue Andresen
Director of Philanthropy
The Bloedel Reserve

7571 NE Dolphin Drive
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
[206.842.7631](tel:206.842.7631) ext.12
www.bloedelreserve.org

Nurture the place that recharges your soul. [Make a donation online](#) to Bloedel Reserve



Amber Richards
Executive Assistant
City of Bainbridge Island
280 Madison Ave North
Bainbridge Island, WA
98110

Mrs. Richards,

It is our pleasure to write a letter in support of the Pollinator Improvement Project (PiP) being submitted for consideration to the Bainbridge Island Intergovernmental Working Group Program (IGWG). The objectives outlined in the project proposal closely align with Bay Hay's mission, and we believe that the completion of PiP will have a positive impact on the community and our natural environment.

As beekeepers at Bay Hay and Feed, we are encouraged by Pollinator Improvement Project to improve the survival rates for our vital pollinators. Over the years we have had problems with honey bee loss and we know about the role of toxins. We are all aware of the global impact of these biologic agents on honey bee survival and the need for urgent action.

- At our nursery we have never and will never sell products with neonicotinoid insecticides for home or commercial use.
- We have never and will never spray the plants that we have at Bay Hay with neonicotinoid insecticides.
- We strongly feel that the only way to improve the survival of the bee is to introduce bans on the neonicotinoid insecticides. It is the home owner and the landscapers that use these products on the island. Education is great but on its own, we believe, will not be effective.

Not only will this project offer improved survivability for our bees and likely higher productivity of fruits and vegetables for all island growers, but it will serve as a model approach for other communities.

We are pleased to endorse and support the efforts of the City and its partners in this effort.
We are available to meet with you and/or with IGWG should that be useful.

Sincere thanks for undertaking this effort.

All Best,

Howard Block
Els Heyne