

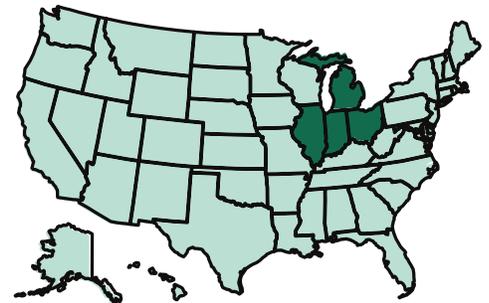
POLLINATORS AND AGRICULTURE: A PARTNERSHIP ON THE LAND

Pollinator Partnership (P2) is excited to announce Project Wingspan Agricultural Lands (PWAL), a new program in IL, IN, MI, and OH helping the agricultural community create high-quality pollinator habitat. The program combines volunteer native seed collection and collaboration with farmers, ranchers, and others wanting support for habitat creation.



Why are we doing this?

Pollinators are essential, pollinating over 90% of wildflowers and 75% of our major crop plants. However, pollinators are in trouble and populations are struggling and declining with some of the biggest problems being loss of habitat, exposure to pesticides (especially insecticides), pests and diseases, and climate change. Habitat loss in agricultural landscapes and other developed lands is one of the biggest problems pollinators and other valuable wildlife are facing. Fortunately, we know that we can have a large impact and support pollinators and other essential wildlife by integrating habitat areas into agriculture.



These habitat areas also can be a direct benefit to farms, ranches, and other operations, increasing pollinators and crop yield, increasing beneficial biocontrol insects and reducing the need for chemical pest control, increasing soil nutrition and water filtration, and reducing storm water runoff. Having habitat on agricultural lands is a win-win!

It is estimated that there currently are over 125 million acres in active agriculture in the Midwest. Harnessing these lands to help pollinators can result in habitat corridors, linking the agricultural landscape to areas like public greenspaces and private conservation lands, creating a thriving and healthy landscape for agriculture and nature.

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How are we doing this?



PWAL will help secure and enhance 3,000 acres of pollinator habitat by working with land stewards to increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of habitat patches within key spaces found in the agricultural landscape including buffers, field edges, roadsides, rangeland, conservation easements, garden areas, land enrolled in Farm Bill conservation programs, and other potential habitat areas within the agricultural landscape (actively farmed or retired). This will be achieved through a combination of improved management activities and plant material awards. Project Wingspan volunteers will collect 80 lbs. of native milkweed and wildflower seed and our staff will propagate 8,000 seedlings for distribution to select project sites within the agricultural landscape that apply for program participation. PWAL additionally will provide technical training to farmers and others in the agricultural community to help them create, manage, and monitor pollinator habitat, as well as connect them with other programs and resources that can help with reaching their goals.

How can you get involved?

If you are a farmer, rancher, and/or manage areas within the agricultural landscape and are interested in learning how to improve your lands for pollinators: Apply for program participation and tell us about your lands by filling out the PWAL habitat survey: www.pollinator.org/wingspan/habitat-surveys/pwal-survey.

If you have a passion for nature and want to help imperiled pollinators: Become a trained seed collector and join a dynamic and fun team that is making a difference on the ground. Sign up to learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/Wingspan-volunteer>.

If you have robust native plant populations on your land and are interested in the possibility to contribute towards local habitat improvement efforts as a seed collection site: Sign-up to get on our list of potential seed collection locations and a State Coordinator will be in touch soon to see if your site is a good fit and answer any questions. www.pollinator.org/wingspan/collection-location-form.

Together, PWAL, the agricultural community, and volunteers will create amazing change in the lives of pollinators, wildlife, and people in the Midwest.



Find out more about Project Wingspan and learn how you can get involved by visiting www.pollinator.org/wingspan or contact your State Coordinator:

- Illinois: Eleanor Schumacher – es@pollinator.org
- Indiana: Nicole Messacar – nm@pollinator.org
- Michigan: Connie Crancer – cc@pollinator.org
- Ohio: Lara Roketenetz – lara@pollinator.org

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