

Pollinator Garden Assignment

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1. Of the three project sites visited on Oct. 5th, what is your team's preferred site for a future pollinator garden?

We agreed that Pat Kline Park is our preferred site for planting.

2. Why is your team's preferred site better than the other two locations?

Pat Kline Park has a high degree of community engagement, which is why we think it's better than the other two locations. It's in a beautiful location that's already utilized by families of the community, so planting a pollinator garden will increase public exposure to the native ecosystem of Iowa. Also, the area supports a large garden that would allow us to supply a surplus of native plants.

Community Park was in a highly-traveled location, but the potential garden area was incredibly small. There wasn't much space for planting. Also, being in the middle of a parking lot brought up some concerns. A child could hide in the grass and potentially jump out in front of a passing car. Also, native pollinators would likely be hit by cars going by. While a lot of people would see the pollinator garden in this location, it wasn't the best for our particular project.

We believe that Luers Park would benefit more from a prairie than a pollinator garden, so we didn't think it was the most practical choice. This location experiences a lot of flooding, so having a prairie would relieve the pressure on the stormwater system. However, a pollinator garden would be less effective here. Luers Park is also not as popular as Pat Kline Park, which makes it a less desirable location.

3. What are the educational benefits of your team's preferred project site?

The site at Pat Kline Park would be seen by a lot of the community. Adding signage would educate children and parents as to the benefits of pollinators and the role they have in our native ecosystem. It sets the groundwork for future projects as well. As more people come to love the pollinator garden, there are more opportunities to integrate native gardens into the city of West Burlington.

4. What are the environmental benefits of your team's preferred project site?

Harboring native pollinators is the main draw of Pat Kline Park. The garden will be a place for native species to reside, which will increase the native biodiversity of the area. Native insects will be able to thrive, which will supplement the native ecosystem.

5. What practical or economic problems will a pollinator garden address or solve at your team's preferred project site?

With a pollinator garden, the city would spend less money on mowing. There would be less upkeep and less workload for city workers, as they would need to spend less time maintaining the field of grass that is there currently.

6. In your opinion, how will a pollinator garden benefit the citizenry and community of W. Burlington, IA?

We believe that this pollinator garden will act as a gateway to incorporate more native species into West Burlington. While it will add beauty and support native pollinators, we mainly hope that the people of this city will fall in love with native plants. Once they have skin in the game, they can push to integrate more native plants into their community.