



St. Croix County

Students Plant Seeds to Benefit Pollinators

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works alongside partners in every Wisconsin county to put conservation practices on the ground at the local level. These partnerships help leverage our mission of *Helping People Help the Land*, so we all can enjoy conservation benefits as a result, such as cleaner air and water, improved soil, and abundant wildlife habitat. Below are recent successful events St. Croix County NRCS had the opportunity to partner in.

Earth Day

The NRCS participated in Earth Day at the Hudson YMCA camp, April 17, 2016. NRCS and Pheasants Forever partnered, presenting a display booth to educate participants on available programs and wildlife habitat. Attendees were able to take informational program materials and created pollinator seed balls to plant in their home gardens.

Spring Valley Pollinator Project

NRCS, in partnership with Pheasants Forever, conducted a one acre pollinator planting with 50 students participating from the Spring Valley School, fifth grade class. During the field day, students rotated through three education stations including plant identification, pollinator free ice cream, and a demonstration hive. After rotating through the stations, students helped to hand broadcast the site and plant over 400 pollinator-friendly plugs. Additional partners included Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Bayer Bee Care, Cabelas Outdoor Fund, and Pioneer.

Willow River Pollinator Project

NRCS, in partnership with Pheasants Forever, conducted a .75 acre pollinator planting at Willow River State Park with 75 students participating from the Willow River Elementary School, fifth grade class. Students rotated through six education stations including plant identification, pollinator-friendly plug planting, pollinator game, demonstration bee hives, the nature center, and plant parts identification. Different organizations and partners ran each station. Partners included Pheasants Forever, WDNR, Parks, Friends of the Willow and Kinickinnic Park, UW-Extension, and Hudson High School. In addition to completing education stations, students also had the opportunity to broadcast seed the site.

