

Shiloh COSD #1

2023 Project Report



The Project:

Shiloh CUSD #1 is working towards bringing pollinators to their schoolyard and creating a place for students to sit and learn through a pollinator garden and the construction of two benches near the entrance of said garden

Project Focus: Habitat Restoration & Biodiversity

Staff Involved: 3

Location: Hume, IL

Students: 12



The establishment of a more conveniently located area of native plants will allow the younger students first hand access to flora and fauna year-round.



The Process:

Originally, Shiloh hoped to add two things to their schoolyard. The first being a one-half acre native pollinator patch in an area accessible to elementary students. Shiloh's team was able to obtain high quality seed from "Pheasants Forever", an organization whose mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvement. Since the cost was much less than anticipated, they will be able to expand the wildflower area. The site is just beyond the playground that is used by the entire elementary and junior high school, making it a short walk for these students.

The second portion of their proposal involves the construction of two gabion benches near the entrance to the path that will go through the wildflower area. Students will be doing most of this work, starting with digging holes to secure the bench posts. We have been waiting for the ground to thaw, but not be too muddy so that students can start the process. The large rocks, bricks and discarded concrete needed to fill the benches and provide the shelter for pollinators and other invertebrates will come from the schoolyard. Additional sources will be area farmers, who deal with rocks working to the surface of their fields annually.

Future Plans:

Although the physical preparation of the pollinator patch has not started, plans have been made to do so. Shiloh's team enlisted the help of an individual who is experienced in transforming a variety of areas into native prairies. He has recommended that we wait until temperatures improve to prepare the area for seeding. Once temperatures have improved enough to allow them to remove unwanted plants from the area, they are prepared to seed. Their expert volunteer will help them through this process, which we hope to have completed by the end of April.