

# Xcel Energy Pollinator Initiative

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**Xcel Energy partnered with the City of Cottage Grove and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to restore 60 acres of native prairie habitat in large areas of right-of-way under Xcel Energy transmission lines in the city.**

Pollinators are vital and their population is shrinking. Most flowering plants across the world depend on pollinators like honey bees and monarch butterflies to produce fruit and seeds, but unfortunately many of the needed species are shrinking towards extinction.

Xcel Energy is supporting the fight to save the pollinators by looking for opportunities to plant milkweed (a plant essential in the lifecycle of monarchs) and other native nectar-producing plants along right-of-way corridors and other Xcel Energy land.



**Pollinator habitats typically take three to four years to begin thriving. First year it sleeps, second year it creeps, third year it leaps!**

With our northern service territory coinciding with the Monarch Migration Corridor from Minnesota to Texas, we see tremendous potential to be a leader in creating and restoring pollinator habitat, and educating interested customers who are eager to help.

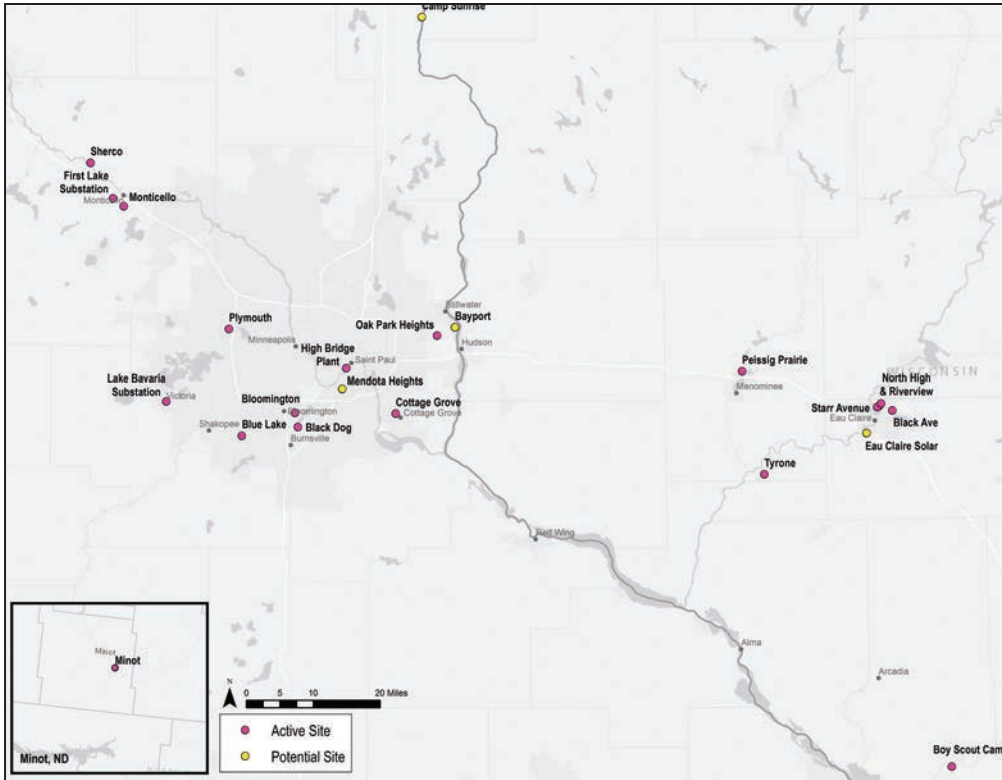
We currently have more than 1,100 acres of active pollinator habitat and more than 200 acres in development. The projects include nearly 30 active and potential pollinator habitat sites in our Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin territories.

Xcel Energy and the contractors we employ do not use chemicals that are harmful to beneficial insects in our Vegetation Management practices to control brush, trees and weeds on our rights-of-way and properties. This includes not using neonicotinoids, which is of special concern to people working to improve bee populations.



**Xcel Energy has developed 20 acres of native prairie land around our High Bridge Generating Station in St. Paul.**

# Xcel Energy proposed & active pollinator sites



## Pollinator sites

Xcel Energy has been supporting the development and maintenance of pollinator habits for over 25 years.

In 2008, we developed 20 acres of native prairie land around the High Bridge Generating Station in St. Paul. In 2015, we signed the Pollinator Pledge committing at least 50 acres in the St. Croix River Valley to pollinator-friendly habitat. The Pollinator Pledge is an initiative launched by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, in 2015 crews planted native pollinator plants on seven acres of new transmission line right of way at a Boy Scout Camp near Town of Holland, Wis.



**In June 2016, we commemorated the completion of the First Lake Substation in Monticello, Minnesota. The new facility includes seven acres of new pollinator-friendly habitat. Pictured in the bottom right, the seven-acre habitat is in full bloom just over a year later.**

**Xcel Energy partnered with the City of Bloomington in 2017 to plant six acres of pollinator habitat on fee-owned land. Students from Valley View Elementary planted seedlings at the site.**