ELICH DR

ORR DR

NORTH

Scale 1:1,500

September 2015

OAKWOOD CL

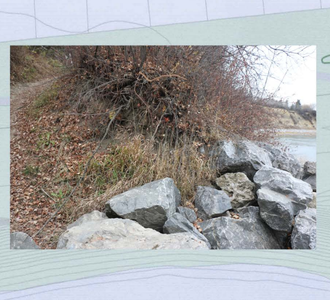
Ground Nesting Bees

Most of North America's indigenous bees are solitary ground nesting bees. Ground nesting bees dig nests in bare or sparsely vegetated soil. They will nest on both flat ground and vertical banks. Nest formations range from single tunnels to complex, branched underground systems.

It is important to manage landscapes so that these open soil areas are not disturbed or cultivated.

Rock and Brush Piles

Overgrown areas, rock piles and brush piles can provide cover for pupating butterflies, nesting sites for ground nesting bees and protected overwintering sites for bumble bees and butterflies.



Berries and Seeds

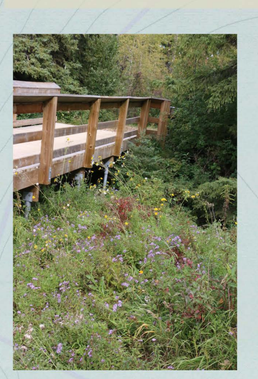
The abundance and diversity of berries and seeds found throughout the park are indicators of the presence of pollinators.

The park is rich with a diversity of woody plants that produce berries; all of these berries were blossoms in the spring and early summer. This diversity of bloom provides an excellent food source for pollinators from May to July.

Abundance of Bloom

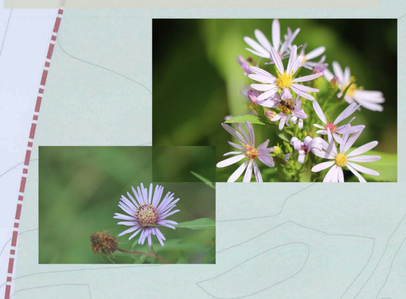
Large patches of flowering plants, such as these asters, make it easy and efficient for pollinators to feed and gather pollen. Little energy needs to be expended traveling from one bloom to another.

This abundance of bloom can also be found in the large patches of golden rod in late summer and the masses of flowers on the indigenous berry shrubs in the spring.



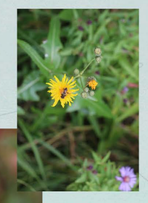
Asters

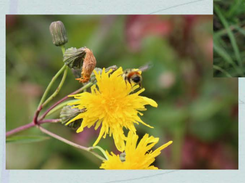
Asters are abundant in the park and are an important late summer nectar and pollen source for many types of bees.



Non-Indigenous Species

In many areas non-indigenous species are important and sometimes the only source of nectar and pollen for pollinators. Sensitive management of these species is encouraged when looking at pollinator habitat. Where they coexist with indigenous species or where they are the only plant species that provides a bloom it can be more beneficial to allow them to exist rather than use harmful pesticides to remove them.





Rotting and Decaying Wood

Dead trees, otherwise know as snags, whether standing or fallen, provide nesting sites for many species of solitary cavity nesting indigenous bees. Snags are a very important components of a healthy pollinator habitat.

Trees that have fallen or those that have been cut for safety and maintenance are left in the park to decay. As they breakdown they become beetle-ridden, these holes and tunnels become perfect nesting sites for bees such as mason and leafcutter bees.

Goldenrod

Abundant nectar and pollen rewards make goldenrod one of the top pollinator plants. This native plant attracts a diversity of insects including many types of beetles, syrphid flies, butterflies, bees and wasps. The shallow flowers allow for easy access to nectar for both large and small bees.

Grass and Water

Both grasses and the presence of water are components of healthy pollinator habitat.

Grasses are host plants for some butterflies and provide a dense cover for nesting sites for bumble bee colonies. Bumble bees will also use old rodent burrows found within grass to create a nest. Many insects will overwinter in the protective environment of tall grass.

Pollinators require additional water beyond what they can require from nectar. Maskepetoon Park has an abundance of water sources for pollinators. Butterflies and some bees will drink water from moist soils or shallow puddles. This is known as puddling. The edges of the beaver lodges and dams are excellent sites for puddling.

Maskepetoon Pollinator Habitat

Maskepetoon Park exemplifies healthy pollinator habitat within the city of Red Deer.

To provide for the needs of pollinators the site must have food and nesting sites.

The rich diversity of plant material, both herbaceous and woody provides a long season of bloom from early spring to late summer. This ensures food, nectar and pollen, for pollinators throughout spring, summer and autumn.

Areas of open soil, rock and woodpiles and an abundance of dead wood are all used by various pollinators as nesting sites.

Management of the land causes no or minimal disturbance to pollinators and the habitat that supports them.

This park provides excellent habitat for pollinators but it is important to create many areas like this one, as the health of pollinators is dependent on a critical mass of such rich and diverse habitats.

MASKEPETOON POLLINATOR PARK

INTERPRETED BY : LIVING LANDS LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN

OCTOBER 2015