



Supporting the Health of Pollinators: *Ecological Reuse at the Davis Timber Company Superfund Site*

Site Background and Cleanup

The 30-acre Davis Timber Company Superfund site in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was once a timber processing and wood treatment facility. Chemicals stored in wastewater ponds reached nearby waterways, resulting in contamination at the site and downstream. EPA placed the area on the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL) in 2000. Cleanup activities included digging up contaminated soil and sediment, capping the waste, and controlling surface water flows and erosion. Cleanup finished in September 2012.



Supporting Ecological and Other Reuses

With the remedy in place, the site is now able to support a variety of uses. They provide a habitat for pollinators, serve the community and reflect the interests of site owners:

- **Ecological:** In 2012, 15 acres were returned to ecological use. The area was filled with plants and wildflowers native to Mississippi, providing habitat for pollinators and scenery for visitors to enjoy.
- **Public Services:** After participating in a reuse assessment with the community and local government, the site owner donated 3 acres for use as a community center and polling location. In November 2012, the Hub City Humane Society opened a shelter for cats and dogs on site. Future plans include an education center and a horse shelter.
- **Recreation:** The site features walking paths frequented by families and other visitors. Future plans include more nature trails and a dog park.

What Are Pollinators? Why Are They Important?

A pollinator is an insect or animal that moves pollen within or to another flower, fertilizing the plant. There are about 200,000 species of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles, birds and bats. Many types of plants, including vegetable and fruit crops, require pollination to bear fruit. Recent declines in pollinator populations – and bees in particular – have raised concerns about the future of food supplies worldwide.

Establishing Native Plants and Wildflowers

The 15 acres now in ecological reuse were filled with native Mississippi plants and wildflowers, including Bermuda grass, Pensacola Bahiagrass, White Dutch Clover and Dixie Crimson clover.

The reseeding benefits the site and the cleanup in several ways. Native plants and wildflowers increase the land's natural beauty and appeal to visitors. Part of the reseeded area is close to a nature trail and visible to passersby. Use of the plants and wildflowers also decreases overall maintenance requirements; the area requires less frequent watering and mowing. They also enhance the site's remedy by providing erosion control.



Providing Pollinator Habitat

Returning a site to ecological use provides valuable habitat for pollinators. In addition to pollen and nectar, the habitat provides pollinators with the space they need to thrive. The reseeded area at the site is sunny and meadow-like and the wildflowers attract both bees and butterflies. The native plants on site can also attract multiple species of pollinators. Dixie Crimson Clover, for instance, produces an abundance of pollen and nectar that attracts European honey bees, as well as a variety of native bees.

By using native plants and flowers as part of the ecological reuse of Superfund sites such as the Davis Timber Company site, ecosystems are restored, providing a haven for pollinators and supporting their long-term health. Many Superfund sites are well suited to support a range of ecological reuses, including pollinator habitats.

Supporting Pollinator Health

EPA supports the health of pollinators in many ways. Efforts include:

- Co-chairing the Pollinator Health Task Force established by the 2014 Pollinator Presidential Memorandum. To read the Presidential Memorandum, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b>.
- Issuing guidance on how to minimize risks to pollinator health from pesticides and other chemicals.
- Convening summits and conferences to discuss pollinator health.
- Partnering with pollinator-focused groups such as the Wildlife Habitat Council, the Pollinator Partnership and the Monarch Joint Venture. For more information on EPA's Pollinator Partnership, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/activities/pollinatorpartnership.html>.
- Promoting the ecological reuse of Superfund sites and other areas, with special assistance and incentives for pollinator-friendly reuses.
- Recognizing the efforts of responsible parties and other stakeholders for supporting pollinator health.

For more information on EPA's support of pollinator protection and health, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>.

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