New York State Department of Transportation

Rochester Region's I-390 Pollinator Pilot

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"Pollinator habitat along roadside supports the pollination needs of adjacent farms and natural areas."

Jennifer Hopwood, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

NYSDOT Pollinator Pilot

- 2008 reduction in mowing facilitated natural regeneration of wildflowers.
- Recognized what is happening naturally, let's preserve it.
- Can transportation corridors contribute to pollinator conservation?

Let's give it a shot!

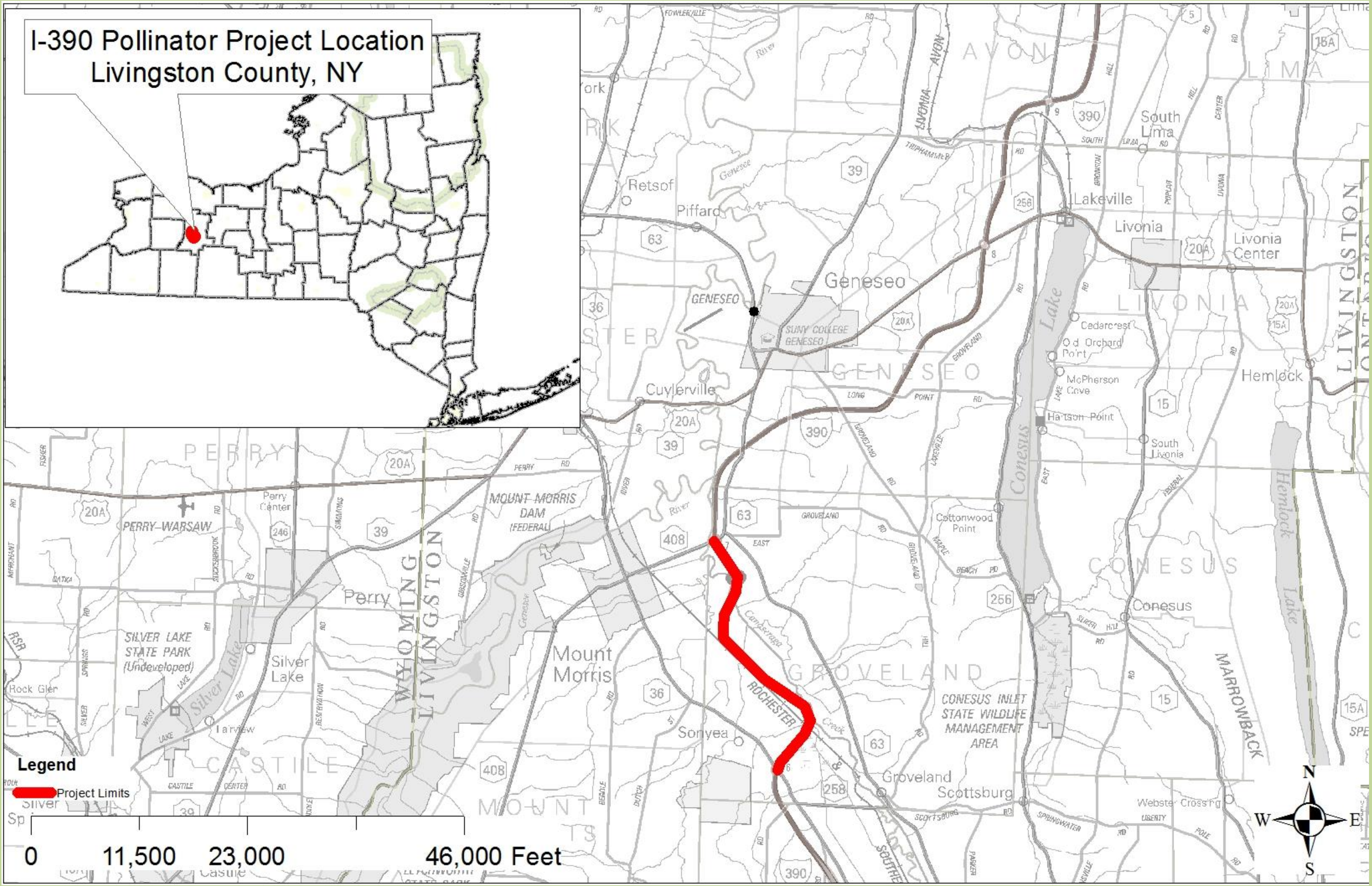
What happens when we change Mowing practices?

- Frequency
  - 3 times per year

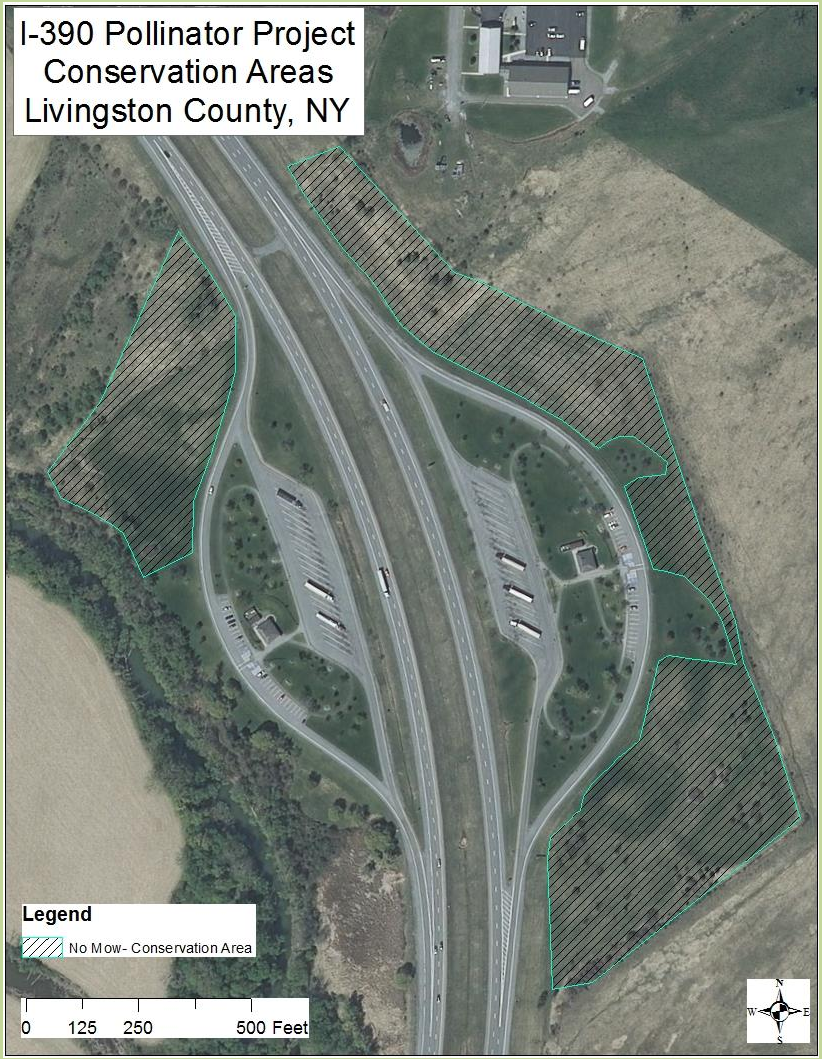
  vs.
  - 2 times per year
- Timing
  - Shift from mid-summer to late summer
- Outer Mowing Zones
  - Widths Combined

  "Annual" & "Targeted"

WILL NOT CHANGE THE SINGLE PASS MOWING ZONE-SAFETY!


I-390 Pollinator Project Location
Livingston County, NY
Legend
Project Limits
0
11,500
23,000
46,000 Feet
N
S
E
W
AVON
LIMA
South Lima
Retsof
Piffard
Lakeville
Livonia
Livonia Center
Geneseo
GENESEO
SUNY COLLEGE GENESEO
LIVONIA
Cedarcrest
Old Orchard Point
McPherson Cove
Hartson Point
South Livonia
Hemlock
Cuylerville
PERRY
MOUNT MORRIS DAM (FEDERAL)
PERRY-WARSAW
Perry Center
Perry
WYOMING
LIVINGSTON
Cottonwood Point
CONESUS
Conesus
Conesus Lake
Hemlock Lake
SILVER LAKE STATE PARK (Undeveloped)
Silver Lake
Rock Glen
Fairview
CASTILE
Mount Morris
GROVELAND
CONESUS INLET STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Sonyea
Groveland
Scottsburg
MOUNT MORRIS
MARROWBACK
Webster Crossing

Evaluation & Monitoring



Vegetation

Percent change in shrub cover between pre & post mow.

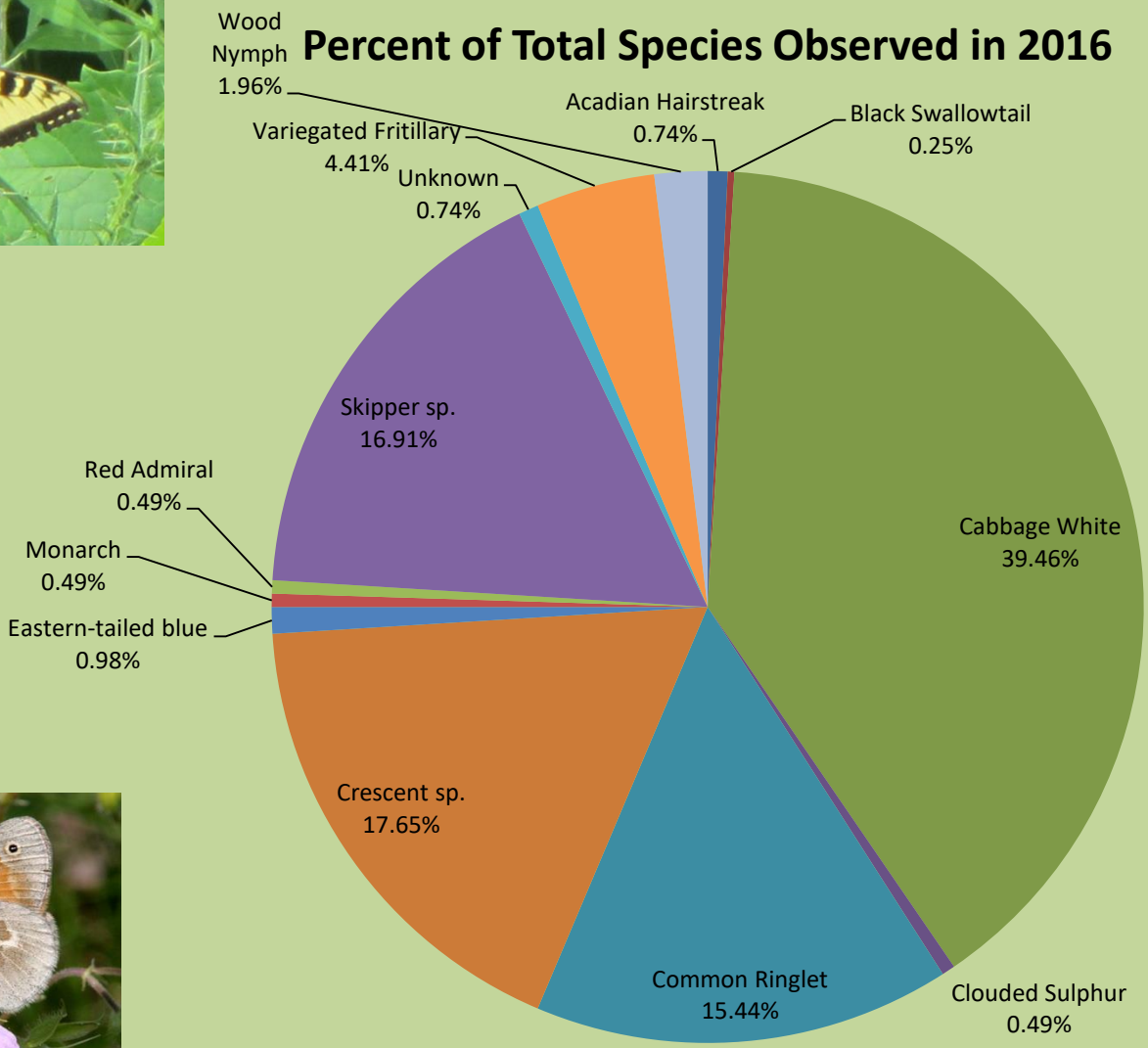
Pollination Presence/Absence

Conduct monthly surveys of butterflies during May-Sept.

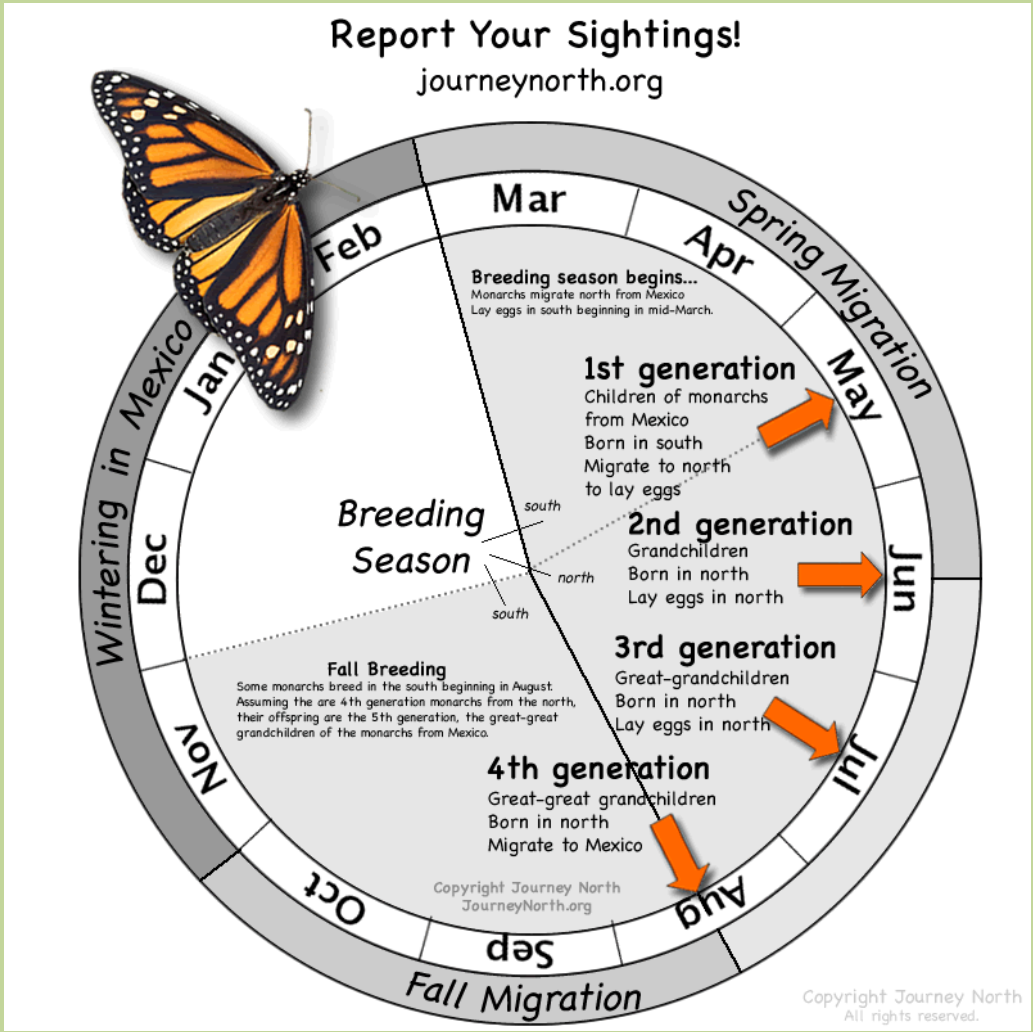
Cost

Track changes in operational expenses.
Ex) Diesel usage, time, etc.

Butterfly Survey Results



Benefits of a Later Mow

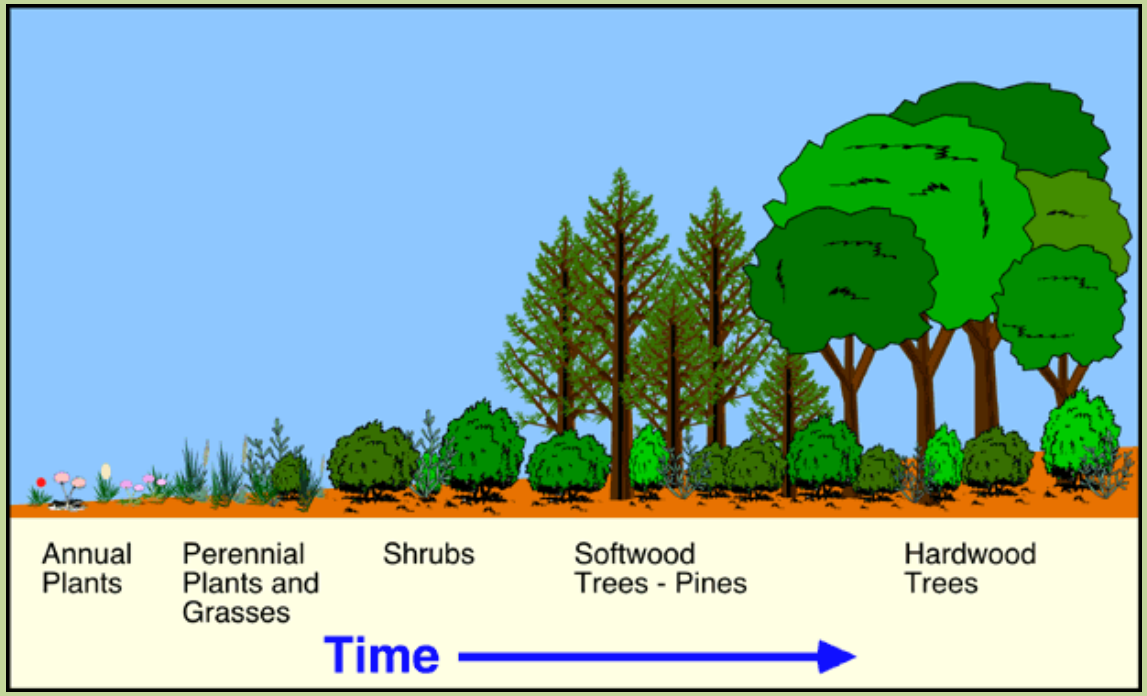


Benefits of a Later Mow

Benefits of a Later Mow

Benefits of a Wider Mow

- Maintains grassland like habitat
- Prevents succession to woody vegetation and future hazard trees



Tradeoffs

Not enough time to mow everything later

Thoughtful application

- Site selection will be key on where to implement
- Alternate sides
  - Southbound in odd years
  - Northbound in even years

Seneca Park Zoo Collaboration

Two Interpretative Gardens

- One at each rest area

  Northbound & Southbound
- Zoo will provide Signage
- Spread conservation message

Citizen Science Component

- Crowd source data collection
  - iNaturlist.org

Seneca Park Zoo Collaboration

NYSDOT ROW's could provide:

- Stock for Monarch captive rearing
  - Educational programming
- Seed sources for milkweed
  - "Butterfly Beltway Program"

Visions of the Future

- ROWs could provide vital stops along migratory pathways
- Statewide or regional implementation
- Formal research on pollinator use of ROWs

Questions?

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