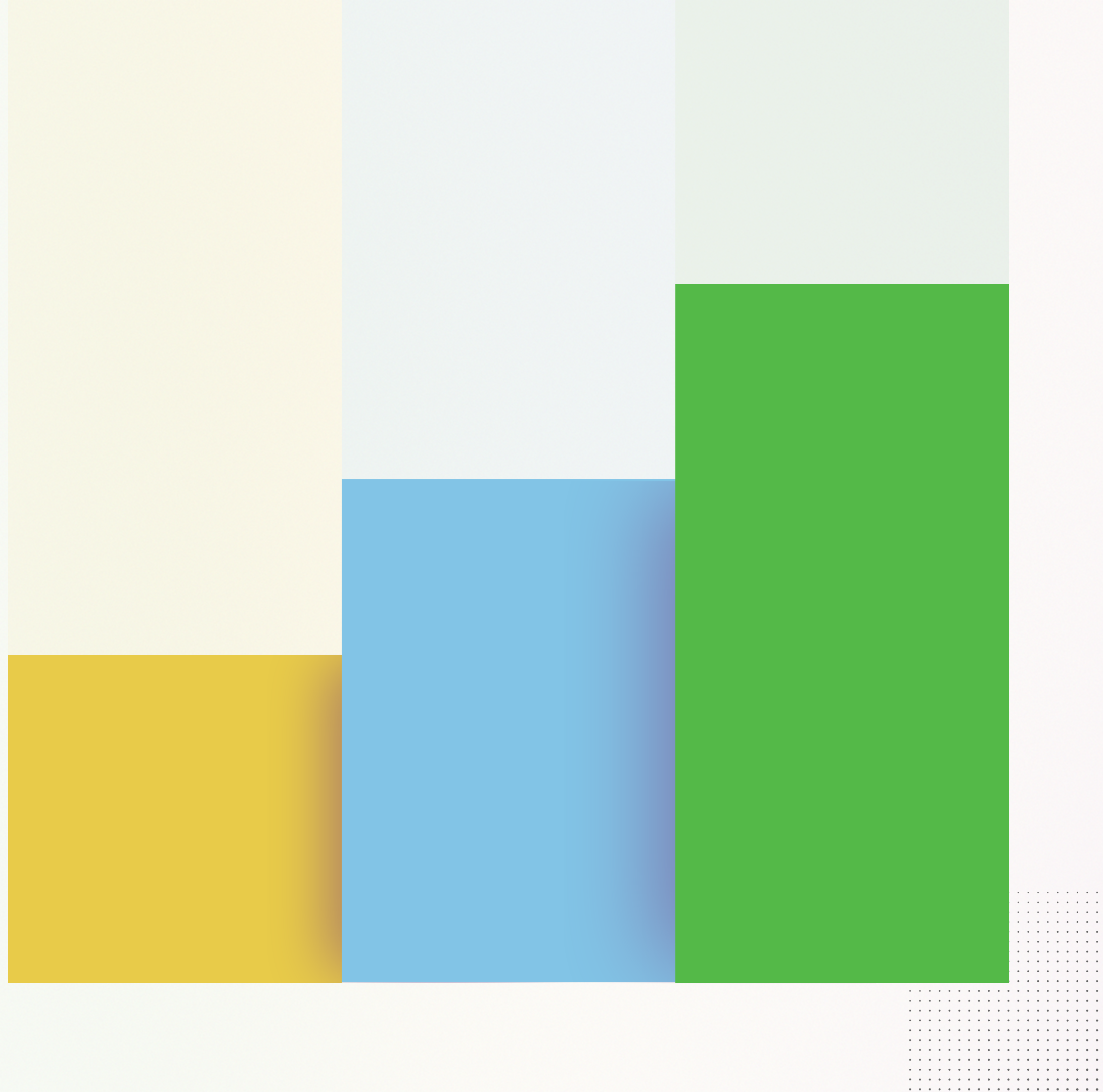




Annual Report



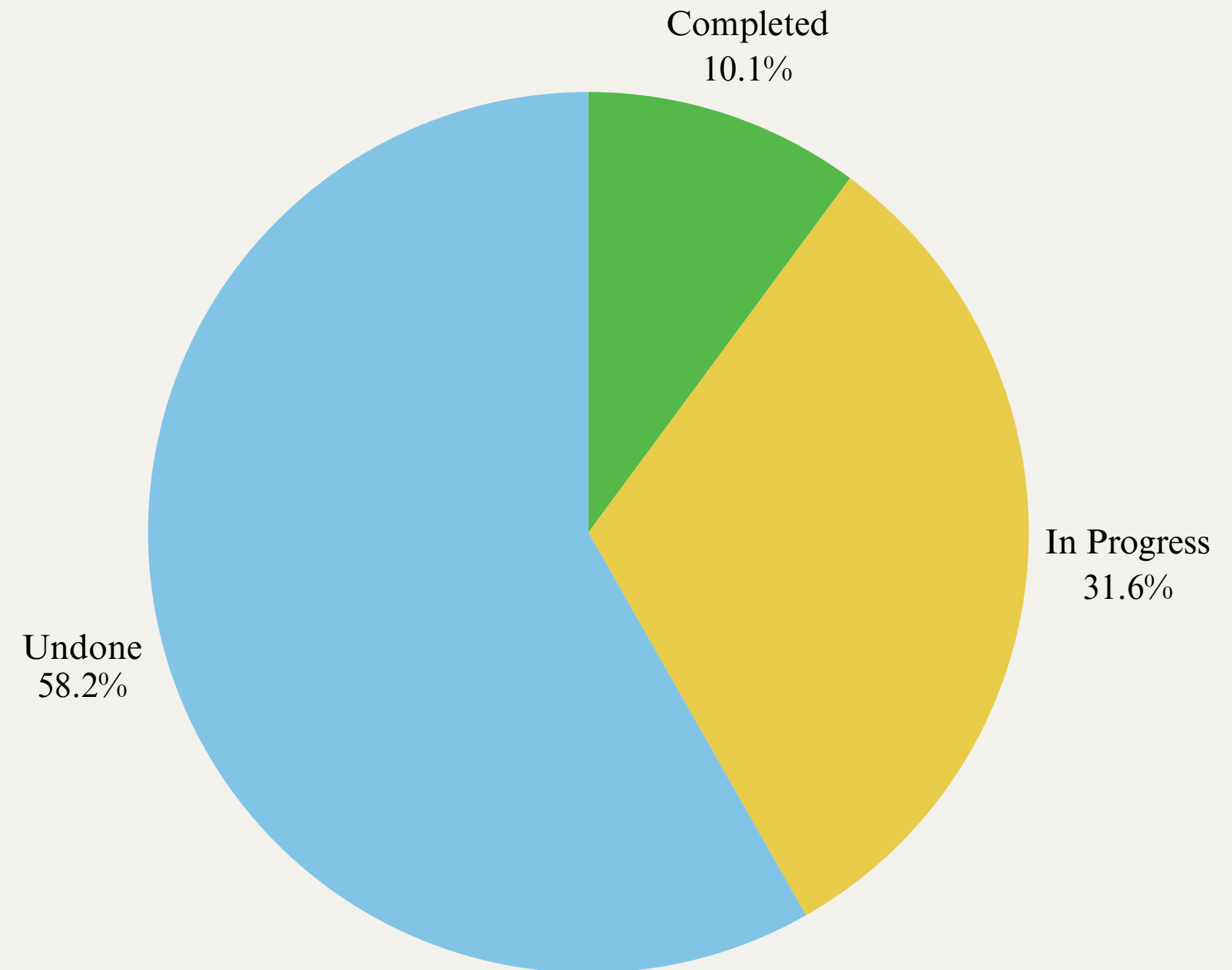
2024 Summary

Total Action Items: 78

Action items completed: 8

Action items in progress: 25

**In just 2 years we have worked on 41% of
tasks in the 10 year plan!**



Education Subcommittee

Co Chair: Paul Domoto

Members: Stephanie Burras, Ashley Geesman, Angie Kolz, Lisa Kuehl, Gina McAndrews, Marsha Readhead, Beth Waage, Mike Todd, Donna Hoff-Grambau, Ana McCracken, Mindy Bryngelson

Task overview

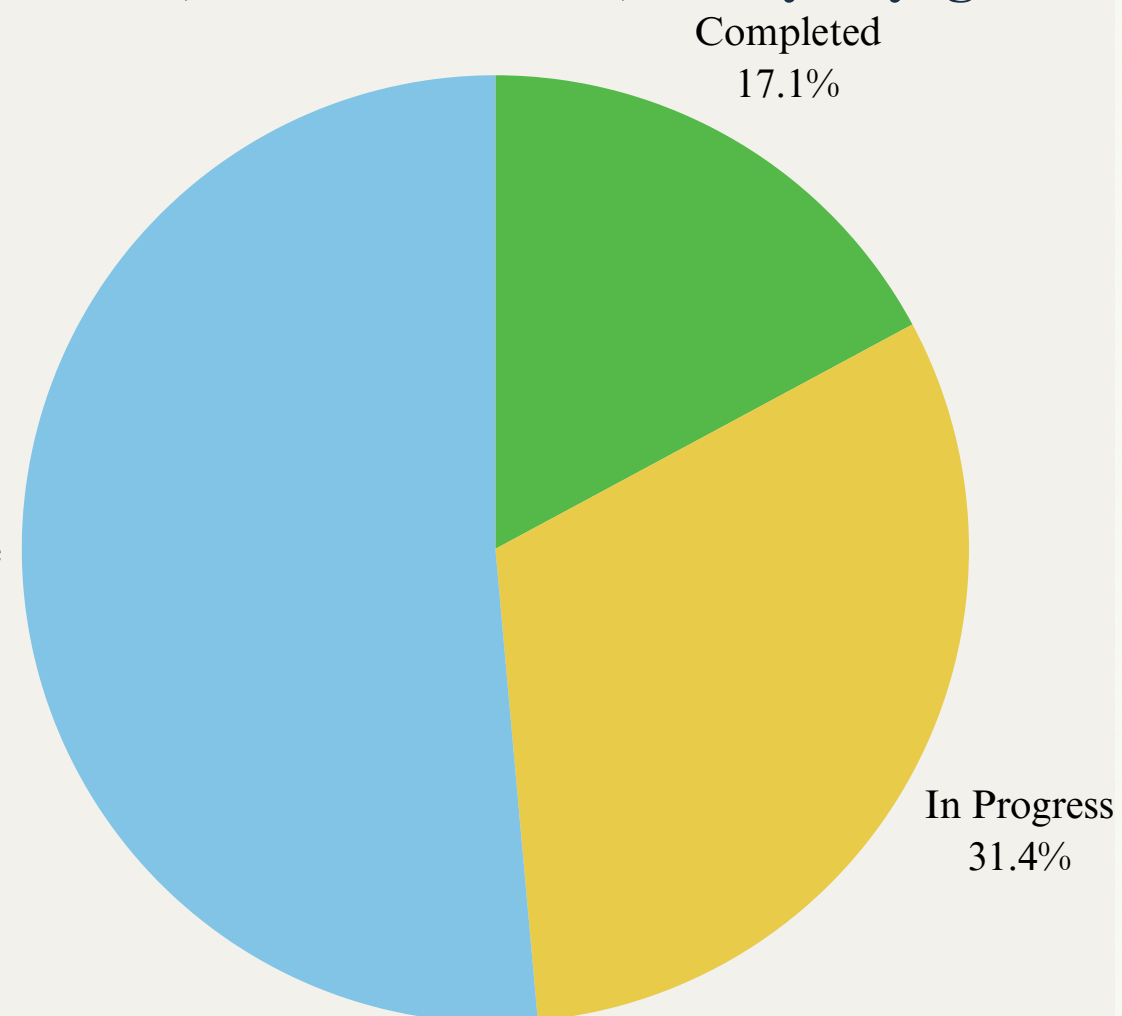
Assigned: 35

Completed: 6

In progress: 11

Undone
51.4%

Undone: 18



Goals for 2025

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 1.4:

- Over 10 yrs the number of Ames households able to identify 5 native/nonnative plants in their yards will increase by 50%
 - Present series of Eco Chats

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 5.1:

- Distribute step-by-step guide describing the growing process, timeline, and importance of maintaining pollinator habitat
 - guide will include properties smaller than an acre like patios, balconies, and shorter plants for right of ways

Goal 4 Strategy 1 Action 5:

- Create/utilize social media accounts to communicate the plan's goals, progress, events, and ways to be involved
 - Create an annual social media plan for accounts

Goal 4 Strategy 2 Action 2:

- Create a logo that is identifiable with the Ames Pollinator-Friendly Community Plan





Completed Tasks

G1 S1 A2: Engage and educate landscape and plant material suppliers to sell Iowa-native plants, especially those that are most beneficial to pollinators

- We have included links to information about Seed & Service Providers, as well as City of Ames Rebates on our Webpages

G2 S1 A3: Include host/nectar/pollen plants of imperiled pollinators in City of Ames/ native plantings

- Pollinator web pages highlight “Host/Forage Plants” for endangered pollinators

G2 S1 A2: Create a tailored list of native pollinators, both common and imperiled, that will likely benefit from urban conservation efforts in Ames

- Pollinator web pages include links to Ames Butterfly Checklist and the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, which highlight species of concern and endangered species in Iowa

G4 S2 A2: Create a logo that is identifiable with the Pollinator Plan

- Created and chosen with help from the City Graphic Designer

G4 S2 A1: Create a webpage to centralize digital information about the Pollinator Plan

- They have been created and are up on the Prairie Rivers Website

G4 S2 A5: Create a mobile display to rotate among city buildings and other areas with substantial public interface to provide information about the Ames Pollinator-Friendly Community Plan

- We have two mobile displays:
 - “Pollinator Friendly Ames!” poster,
 - at Reiman Gardens (May-Jul), Octagon (Aug-Sep), Story County Conservation (Sep-Oct), and will be at the public library next
 - Laura was invited to display pollinator photos at Reiman Gardens: ~25 framed photos, each with an educational caption
 - displayed May – Jul
 - accompanied by the poster and bookmarks
 - possibility a subset of these photos could be displayed at the Public Library in spring 2025



In Progress Tasks

G1 S1 A1: Over 10 years, the number of Ames households able to identify five native or nonnative plants in their yard will increase by fifty percent

- 1.2: Web Pages include links to general resources about pollinators and links about native plants
- 1.2: Distributed information at community events, e.g., Reiman Pollinator Fest, Beautiful Land Market, Monarch Magic, Eco Fair
- 1.4: March 1st 2025 eco chat with Jamie Beyer
- 1.5: Web Pages include link to City of Ames “Convert the Turf”
- 1.7: Web Pages include links to information about “Lights Out” to help both pollinators and birds

G1 S1 A4: Offer signage/recognition for pollinator or habitat in private yards or business landscaping

- 2025 applied for grant from Ames rotary club

G1 S2 A2: Place educational signage near City native plantings to educate the public about pollinators and their habitat requirements

- 2025 applied for grant from Ames rotary club

G2 S1 A1: Deliver public outreach materials annually, focusing on five different pollinators native to Iowa and how residents, community gardens, and businesses can help them

- Butterfly Bestie Bookmarks

G2 S1 A4: Present basic background information on native pollinators to three entities per year, including entities that are private, public, non-profits, government, HOAs, and businesses

- May 2024: Big Bluestem Audubon (Tracy)
- May 2024: Master Gardeners (Penny & Laura)
- Jul 2024: Green Hills Retirement Community (Laura)
- Sep 2024: Story County Conservation OWLS (Laura & Katelyn)
- March 2025: ISU Women in Nature club (Paul D & Lisa K)
- March 2025: ISU Retirees (Paul D & Lisa K)

G3 S1 A1: Educate HOA members and households on possible harmful effects of pesticides and fertilizers on the health of pollinators, environment, pets, and humans

- Web Pages include links about how to reduce pesticide use, and why pesticides are harmful to pollinators

G3 S1 A4: Every two years, have fifty homeowners sign a pledge to end or lower their outdoor pesticide use

- Web Pages include a link to sign up to reduce pesticide use

G4 S2 A4: Create or utilize existing social media accounts to communicate the plan’s goals, progress, events, and ways to be involved

- Using Prairie River’s Facebook and Instagram



Policy Subcommittee

Chair: Noel Steckelberg

Members: Jessie Liebenguth, Paul Readhead, Nate Schlorholtz, Katherine Kral-O'Brien, Vikram Bhargava, Joshua Thompson, Annie Fangman, Brenda Tyrrell, Tim Stewart

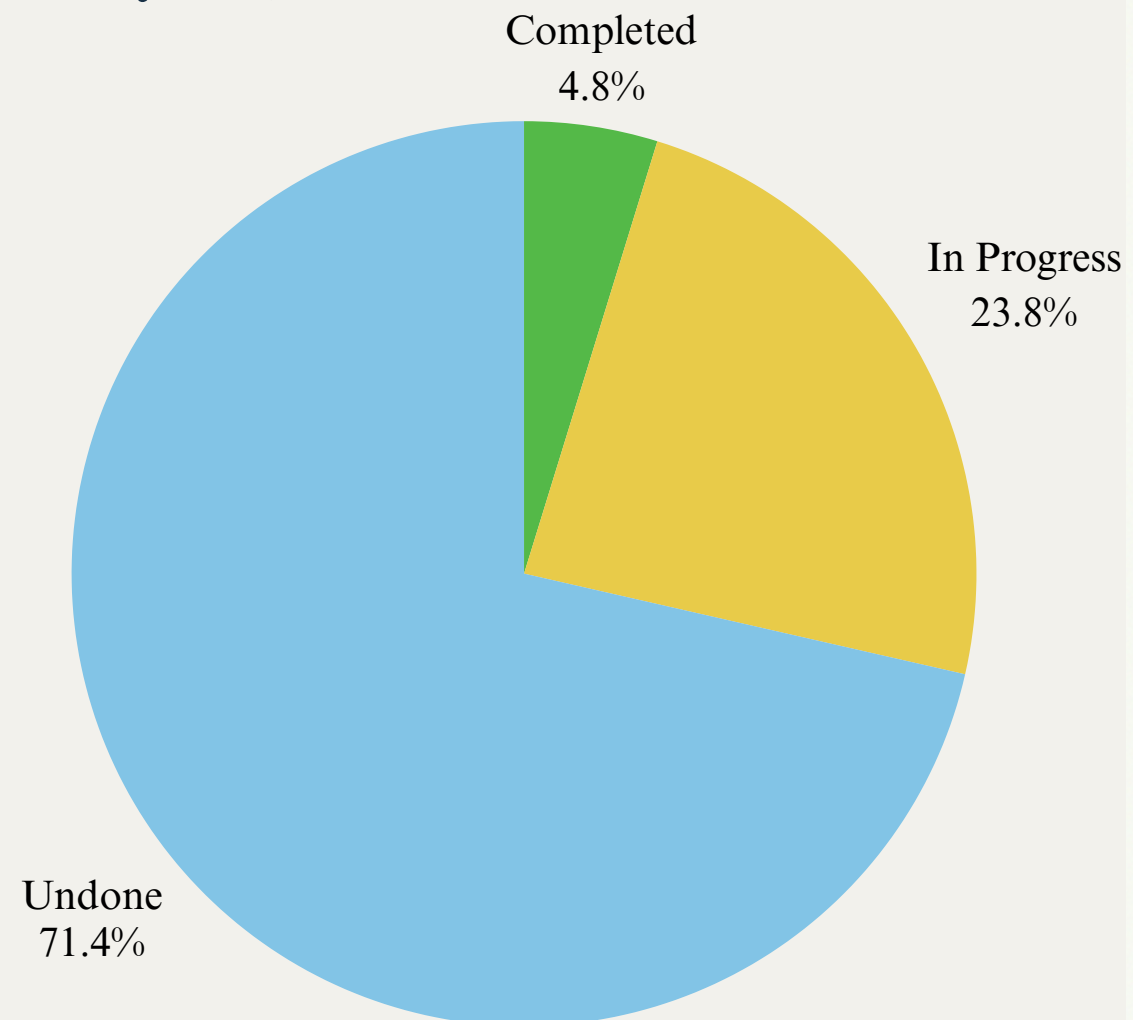
Task overview

Assigned: 21

Completed: 1

In progress: 5

Undone: 15



Goals for 2025

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 1

- Create a rebate for invasive species control on private properties

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 3 – HOA covenant & City of Ames ordinance review and revision

- Over 10 years, the number of Ames households able to identify five native or nonnative plants in their yard will increase by fifty percent
 - Help HOAs tailor their covenants to allow native pollinator habitats, e.g., sprawling pollinator gardens, leaf layers, dandelions, etc

Goal 1 Strategy 2 Action 9

- Review city landscape and park management practices to meet sustainability and pollinator support goals





Completed and In Progress **Tasks**

G4 S3 A4: Mayor reads Proclamation announcing the official pollinator of the City of Ames, and Ames' pledge to support and protect pollinators and their health

- Tracy was there when the Mayor read the proclamation in 2023

G1 S2 A2: Create a list of short-stature plants that can be utilized in right-of-ways to maintain required sight distance for City property

- Katelyn has a list started

G1 S2 A5: Review city landscape and park management practices to meet sustainability and pollinator support goals

- looking at plans and talking with Parks about pesticide use
- We would have to come up with a pesticide plan and present it to them if we want to pursue this

G1 S1 A1: Over 10 years, the number of Ames households able to identify five native or nonnative plants in their yard will increase by fifty percent

- looking into average HOA covenants to see what can be changed

G1 S1 A3: Review the Ames Smart Watershed Cost Share Rebate programs for considering HOAs and landowners owning over one acre of land

- 2024 rebates added a category for HOAs and larger plots

G3 S1 A3: Assess City of Ames mosquito fogging and pest control for best management practices and the implementation of Integrated Pest Management

- Talked with Joshua Thompson said that very minimal fogging or pesticide use is being done and that citizens are actually complaining about the lack of mosquito fogging





Partnership Subcommittee

Chair: Jake Moore
Members: Todd Burras, Penny Brown Huber, Laurel Scott, Eric McCabe, David Madsen, Patrick Schmidt, Robert Ryerson

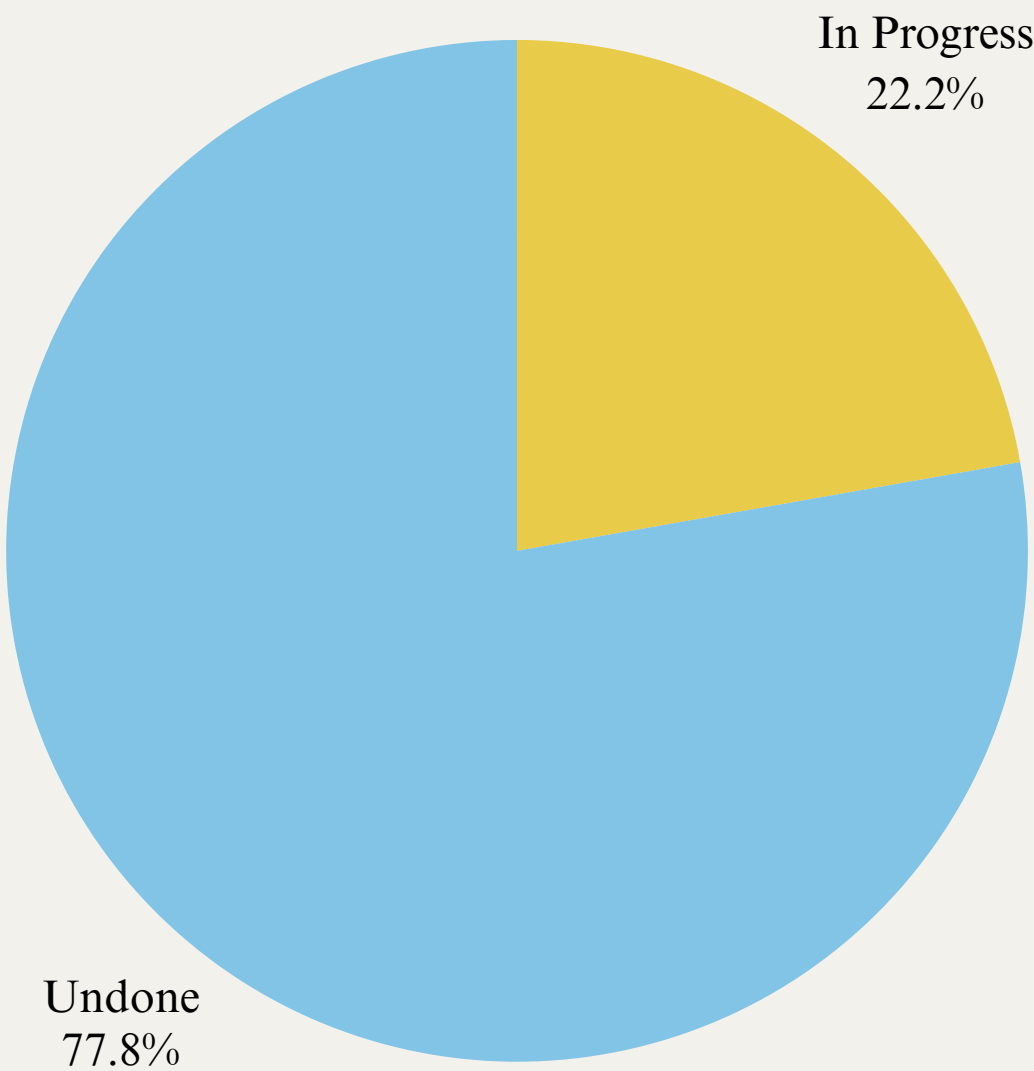
Task overview

Assigned: 8

Completed: 0

In progress: 2

Undone: 7



Goals for 2025

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 5

- Engage and educate landscape and plan material suppliers to sell Iowa-native plants, especially those that are most beneficial to pollinators
 - Work with native plant suppliers to promote the Ames Smart Watershed Cost Share Rebate Program to Ames Residents.

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 8

- Present annually to landowners owning one acre or more (hoa/rental properties, churches, schools, Iowa State University, Railway, or mobile home parks explaining pollinator importance and their decline.
 - Coordinate native landscape professionals with land owners to plan native plans.

Goal 1 Strategy 3 Action 1

- Engage with Iowa State University, Story County Conservation, HabiTally, PlantGrowFly, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the DOT, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other organizations to implement pollinator habitat in Ames



Completed and In Progress Tasks

G1 S1 A2: Work with native plant suppliers to promote the Ames Smart Watersheds Cost Share Rebate programs to Ames residents

- Jake M is working on this with big box stores like Lowes, Earl May, Home Depot...

G1 S3 A1: Engage with Iowa State University, Story County Conservation, HabiTally, PlantGrowFly, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), the DOT, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other organizations to implement and map pollinator habitat in Ames

- Jake M is trying to contact DOT and USDA
- Had Lisa Hein and Erica Place (INHF) come talk with us about making partners and engaging the public
- Eric is talking with members of Ames Area Religious Leaders Association (AARLA)



Research Subcommittee

Chair: John Pleasants

Members: Liz Calhoun, Lori Biederman, Terrie Hoefer, Fanny Riand, Royce Bitzer, Erica Garibay, Jessica Kowalski, Tyler Harms, Joshua Dickinson

Task overview

Assigned: 10

Completed: 0

In progress: 5

Undone: 5



Goals for 2025

Goal 1 Strategy 1 Action 4

- Quantify the number of households, commercial property, and ISU property currently possessing pollinator gardens/habitat

Goal 1 Strategy 2 Action 2

- Determine baseline amount of natural habitat on public land in Ames corporate limits and urban fringe

Goal 2 Strategy 1 Action 1

- Assess and create a baseline of current pollinator abundance and number of species in the City of Ames and Urban Fringe and report findings to public

Goal 2 Strategy 1 Action 4

- Create a simplified, Story County-specific pollinator checklist to engage the public and to possibly be used for crowd-sourced/community science data collection





Completed and In Progress **Tasks**

G1 S1 A1: Quantify the number of households, commercial property, and ISU property currently possessing pollinator gardens/habitat

- Liz C has been working on this, roughly 700 sites,

G2 S1 A1: By 2024, assess and create a baseline of current pollinator abundance and number of species in the City of Ames and urban fringe, and report findings to the public

- working on a self reporting sheet for public to use

G2 S1 A1: Create a simplified, Story County-specific pollinator checklist to engage the public and to possibly be used for crowd-sourced/community science data collection

- See Goal 2, Strategy 1, Action 2: Education Committee created Ames Butterfly Checklist based on Iowa Butterfly Survey Network Data.
- Back of Plan has list of pollinators in Story county, just need to make into a checklist

G1 S2 A1: Determine baseline amount of natural habitat on public land in Ames corporate limits and urban fringe

- Liz started this with some interns, estimated 700 plots of native areas

G1 S3 A1: Create and regularly update maps within the City of Ames and urban fringe to identify underutilized green spaces, landowners owning one acre or more (eg, churches, schools), and potential areas for pollinator habitat and habitat corridors

- Liz C has had interns determine native plantings (public and private) in Ames, roughly 700 sites





Final Thoughts?

