

Chicago, Illinois, USA

S&C Electric Company: Arlys Conrad Memorial Park and Native Pollinator Garden

Catherine Hu
Field Museum

Photos: S&C Electric Company, Laura Milkert, Catherine Hu, Robb Hannawacker (photo 4), Shaun Pogacnik (small photo 5), bmiller001 (large photo 5), K2018lena (photo 7), Mary Crickmore (photo 11), Evan Barker (photo 14), and Stlmark (photo 15). Produced by Catherine Hu and Alicia Diaz.



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This park is dedicated to the wife of S&C founder John R. Conrad, Arlys Streitmatter Conrad, who passed away in 2007. Arlys was known for her pioneering spirit and dedication to the team members of S&C. This serene park is a tribute to her many contributions not only to our company, but also to its community and neighborhood. In collaboration with the Chicago Field Museum's Keller Science Action Center, the Arlys Conrad Memorial Park became a native pollinator garden in 2022.

Land acknowledgment: S&C resides on the ancestral traditional homeland Native peoples, including the [Anishinaabe, or the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations]. Today, the state of Illinois is home to more than 100,000 tribal members. S&C acknowledges all Native peoples who came before us and who continue to contribute to our city, and we are committed to promoting Native cultural heritage.

In 1909, S&C Electric Company transformed the delivery of safe, reliable electricity with the invention of the Liquid Power Fuse. Today, as the world faces extreme weather events and the demand for electricity grows, S&C continues to innovate and modernize the electrical grid, ensuring reliable and resilient power for homes, communities, and critical infrastructure around the world.



1 Nodding Onion
Allium cernuum
Flowers provide nectar and pollen to beetles, bees, and flies. Cellophane bees are frequent visitors.



2 Wild Columbine
Aquilegia canadensis
Bloom time coincides with the arrival of the ruby-throated hummingbird and is an important source of nectar for them.



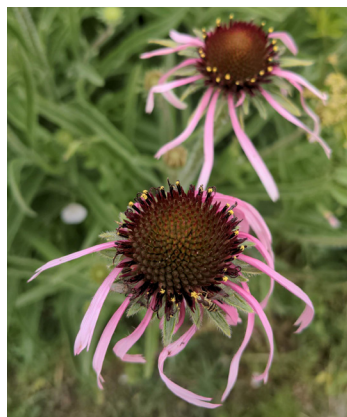
3 Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa
Milkweeds host monarch butterfly caterpillars. Monarchs only lay eggs on milkweeds and cannot reproduce without them.



4 Side Oats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula
Named after its seeds that dangle on one side of the flowering stalk. In bloom time its orange-red anthers, produce pollen.



5 James' sedge
Carex jamesii
Its foliage and seeds are food for caterpillars and birds.



6 Pale Purple Coneflower
Echinacea pallida
Provides lots of nectar for bees and butterflies. Goldfinches eat the seeds in fall.



7 False Sunflower
Heliopsis helianthoides
Soldier beetles and bee flies are common visitors of this flower. Female leafcutter bees cut leaf pieces to line their nests.



8 Wild Lupine
Lupinus perennis
This plant lacks nectar but provides pollen to many bees and hosts several butterfly species.

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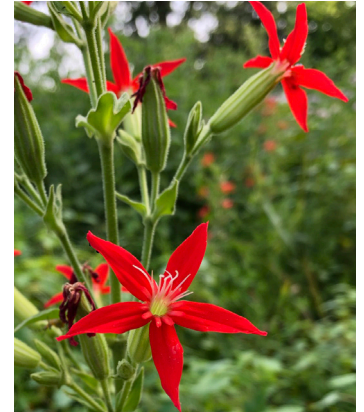
9 Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa
These flowers open throughout the day, making them excellent forage plants for bumblebees.



10 Jacob's Ladder
Polemonium reptans
Large bees are the most effective pollinator of this spring blooming plant.



11 Virginia Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum virginianum
Flowers are full of nectar and attract many pollinators, including beetles, wasps, and medium to large bees.



12 Royal Catchfly
Silene regia
Its stems and leaves have sticky glands, where insects get stuck. It feeds hummingbirds and black swallowtail butterflies.



13 Showy Goldenrod
Solidago speciosa
The entire goldenrod (*Solidago*) genus is an important food source for insects and birds, especially its protein rich pollen in late fall.



14 Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis
Butterfly and moth caterpillars eat the foliage of prairie dropseed, and small birds feed on its seeds.



15 Aromatic Aster
Symphotrichum oblongifolium
Like goldenrods, asters provide pollinator forage at the end of the growing season.



16 Ohio Spiderwort
Tradescantia ohiensis
Flowers only bloom for one day, opening in the morning and closing in the afternoon.



Before plants were installed in Arlys Conrad Memorial Park and Native Pollinator Garden, S&C Electric Company, Chicago, Illinois.



After plants were installed in Arlys Conrad Memorial Park and Native Pollinator Garden, S&C Electric Company, Chicago, Illinois.