Above and Beyond

A case study of NYPA's IVM program and its benefits to pollinators

EPRI Pollinator Habitat Workshop,
Washington, DC
April 25, 2018

Protection for **pollinators** through habitat creation, collaboration, education, sound science, and sensible public policy

How We Do It

Education

P2 works to engage and educate at all levels. From school children to White House officials, we use the "Big Tent" approach to engage as many stakeholders as possible.

Influence Policy

P2 works with government leaders in a bipartisan fashion to craft sensible public policy outcomes.

Independent Research

P2 conducts and supports real science. Our in-house researchers and staff work to provide credible, authentic, and useful guides and information.

Promote Good Land Use

P2 promotes best management practices for pollinators in every landscape. We encourage individuals to create personal gardens that provide pollinators a safe place to live, healthy food, and clean water.

Create Habitat

P2 restores and establishes habitat, native when possible, for all pollinator species through partnerships with landowners, public land managers, and many private sector corporations.

Convene All Parties

P2 brings people together. Whether celebrating Pollinator Week or convening meetings of respected scientists, researchers, conservationists, government officials, and dedicated volunteers. P2 works with all parties in support of its mission and goals.

NY Power Authority

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY
TRANSMISSION LINE CONFIGURATION
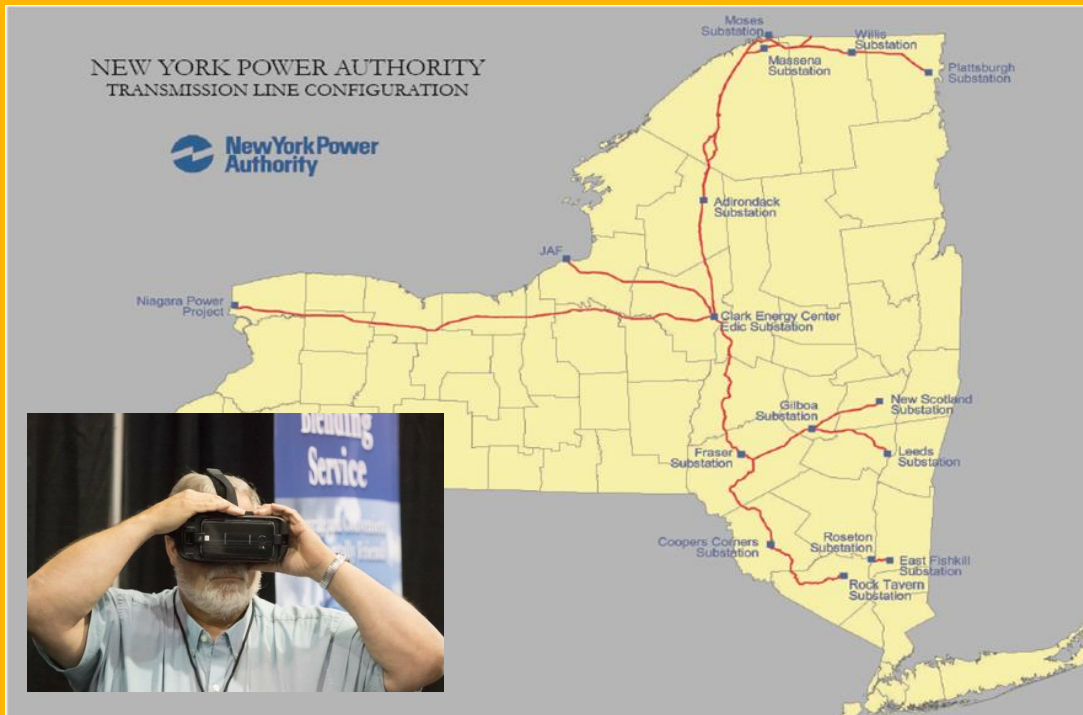
- **America's largest state-owned power organization**
- **1,400 circuit miles of transmission lines**
- **Over 16,000 acres of maintained right-of-way**
- **37% NYS HV Transmission 345kv-765kv**

Pollinators hit the spotlight on the regulatory side

- **NYS Pollinator Protection Plan**

- **Federal Pollinator Partnership Action Plan**
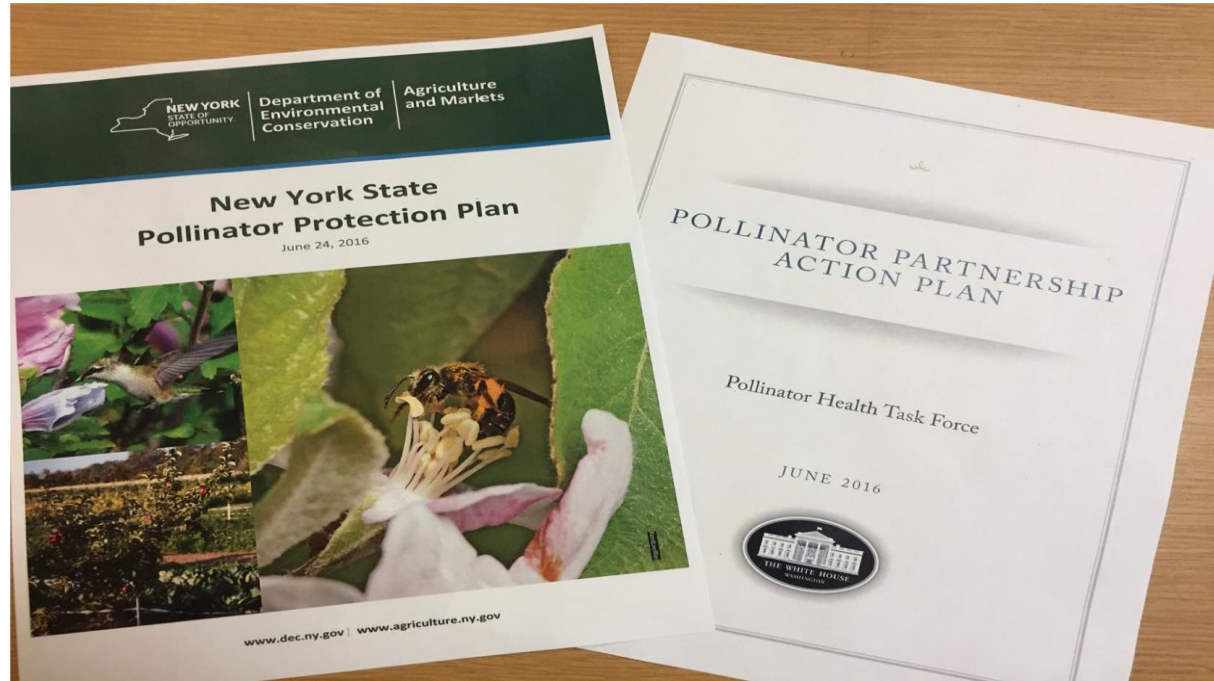
P2-NYPA Partnership

- Does NYPA comply with NYS Pollinator Protection Plan?
  - Both Federal and State plans identify ROWs as key landscape features to focus pollinator protection actions.

- What does NYPA's vegetation management consist of?
  - Best Management Practices are well established through body of evidence.

- What are the gaps in and the opportunities for increasing support to pollinators?
  - Does the NYPA meet standards and if so, can it go beyond?

NYPA's Vegetation Maintenance Program

- **IVM 4-year cycle**
  Inventory, maintenance, QA/QC, patrols

- **ROW Steward Utility**
  five years-accreditation

- **GIS**
  LiDAR, Datasplice
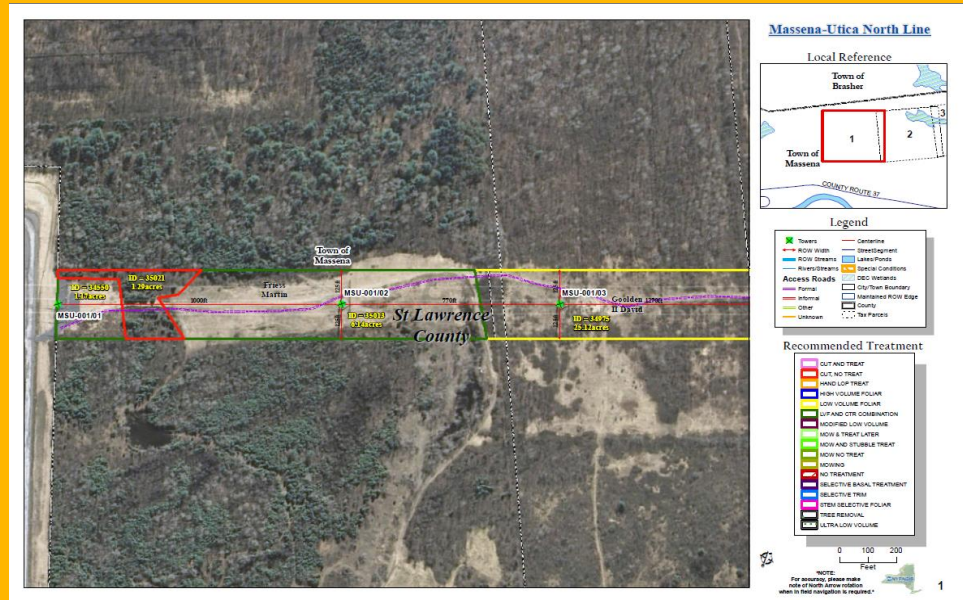
Findings

"NYPA's IVM program is an excellent example of pollinator-friendly ROW management." - P2
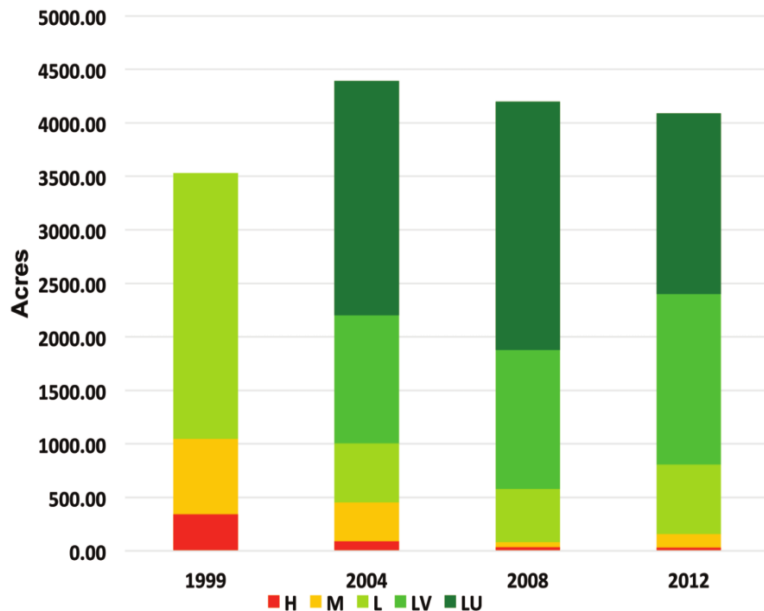

Figure 4. Number of acres in each non-compatible density category by year, with category NA removed, NATL Line. From Kooser et al. 2016, in Doucet 2016

● Decreased herbicide treatment over time.

● Least-disturbance treatment option.

● Promotion of open habitat composed of grasses, forbs, shrubs and low-growing vegetation.

→ PRIME POLLINATOR HABITAT

This is what it looks like

Above and Beyond: BEE SURVEY

- Integrated into GIS data collection
- 100 yard transects
- Inventory crew and forester
- Developed by P2, who also provide training

NYPA stands to make a significant contribution to society and to science by integrating a small activity into its core operations.

Pollinator Data Collection Form												
Line		Structure #			Location				Date			
Plants in bloom	Honey Bee	Bumble Bee	Mining Bee	Carpenter Bee	Small Carpenter Bee	Sweat Bee	Leafcutter Bee	Mason Bee	Long Horn Bee	Squash Bee	Unknown Large Bee	Unknown Small Bee

* Note: This is for a 100 yard by 10 feet vector and will be recorded into GIS.
Notes:

But what's behind the NYPA's success ?

A solid
Integrated Vegetation Management program.

- **Lower direct costs → frees up budget for seeking higher indirect benefits**

Communication and Knowledge Transfer

● Qualified and Trained Line Clearance Personnel
  ○ Full day training at the start of each year

● Development of training and education resources, like fact sheets, tree ID manuals, etc.

● Data collection and analysis → communicates effects and allows adaptive management.
  ○ Indirect costs and benefits.

Questions

Discussion