



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

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The photo on the front cover of this year's Site Environmental Report is a picture of a fly in the family *Syrphidae*. This family of flies is commonly known as flower flies or hover flies. They are a just one group of insects that serve as important pollinators. Their appearance is that of a bee, but upon closer inspection, can be identified as a fly in the Order *Diptera* based on the fact that they only have two wings (*Diptera* means two wings) and lack a stinger. They are commonly seen on flowers along with a number of bees, beetles, butterflies, and moths, all of which provide pollination services.

This picture was selected to represent the Laboratory's commitment to maintaining, establishing, and restoring pollinator habitat supportive of pollinator populations. In 2015, the White House Pollinator Health Task Force established a National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators and the Department of Energy identified BNL as one of the many locations where pollinator Best Management Practices could be implemented as part of the Nationwide Strategy.

The Laboratory had already conducted management supportive of pollinator health, but began identifying additional opportunities including planting native grasses and wildflowers as part of the restoration of the former sand filter beds at the Sewage Treatment Plant and continued natural resource management efforts related to prescribed fire and deer management. Future efforts include additional wildflower and native grass plantings, identification of 'no mow' areas and modified mowing to support wildflowers and pollinators, and research into techniques for monitoring bees and other pollinators.



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