

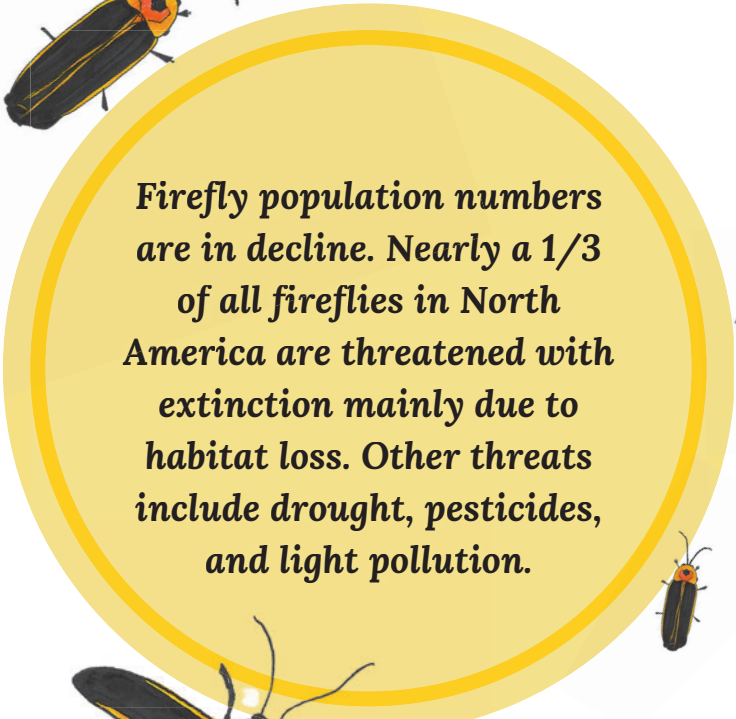

Fireflies Are Pollinators

Fireflies are also referred to as lightning bugs, firebobs, or candle flies. Fireflies belong to the Lampyridae family, which has more than 100 different species of fireflies.



Why Protect Fireflies?

Firefly larvae help maintain a balanced ecosystem by eating snails, worms, and slugs. This is great for gardeners who want a natural way to prevent snails and slugs from eating their plants.


Adult fireflies often feed on pollen, carrying it from plant to plant. Fireflies are pollinators!




Firefly population numbers are in decline. Nearly a 1/3 of all fireflies in North America are threatened with extinction mainly due to habitat loss. Other threats include drought, pesticides, and light pollution.



How You Can Help Fireflies



Mow your lawn less frequently and leave areas of un-mowed lawn with leaf litter to create habitat and retain moisture.



Plant tall native grasses and forbes to increase soil moisture. Some grasses native to Eastern Iowa include Bottlebrush Grass, Switchgrass, and Little Bluestem. Other beneficial plants include Aromatic Aster and Silky Aster.



Reduce outdoor light usage at night. It's as easy as flipping a light switch!