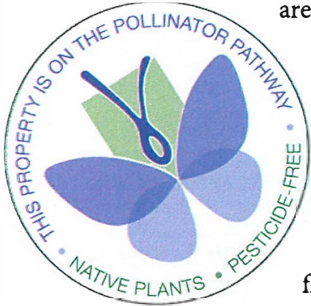


Westbrook Joins the National Pollinator Pathway Program

Pollinator Pathway is an international program with a mission to increase the pollinator population by encouraging creation of pollinator-friendly habitats or way-stations that provide nutrition and habitat for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife. The goal is to create a pathway

for pollinators by linking way-stations that are no further apart than the range of 750 meters (2460 ft. or .46 mi.) of most native bees. Native plant way-stations can be on public or private land and vary in size and complexity from an open field to a structured garden landscape, to the smallest green space like a flower box or curb strip.



Why protect pollinators?

Did you know that pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat? Over the years due to invasive plants, disease and other threats their natural habitats have been greatly reduced. Now, as stewards of our land, it's time to do something about this!

How do we do it?

We can all do our part as concerned citizens of Westbrook. Many towns, cities and rural areas across the country and globe have joined the Pollinator Pathway project to reconnect our landscape to allow the free flow of these species across a healthy, native landscape. Most of the shoreline towns have already joined. Now it is Westbrook's time to join this effort. We can begin by planting native perennials, grasses, shrub, and trees and create a "way-station" in your yard or try to spot possible areas in our community where places for pollinators could be established. No area is too small to become a stepping-stone for a connected landscape for our pollinators.

We have already started the program in Westbrook with support from the Westbrook Garden Club and Conservation Commission. The garden club's Meadow Walk at the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space between the post office and Oxford Academy. There are several Adopt A Spots filled with native plants such as the spot outside the Lew Daniels Technology Center — go take a look!



What is next?

A Pollinator Pledge is planned to be circulated in Westbrook this spring. This pledge contains 3 basic things — 1) Include one to many native plants on my property that may include perennials, grasses, shrubs, and/or trees 2) Avoid as much as possible



the wide area use of synthetic pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and treated mulch 3) Use organic practices to amend soil such as compost. 4) Order the Pollinator Pathway sign to show your neighbors.

For more information contact Dee at her email: deezerm@aol.com. For more information check out pollinator-pathway.org.

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