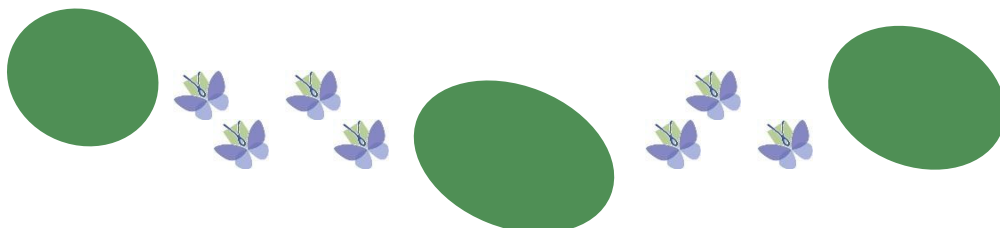


Pollinator Pathway for Newtown

Protect Our Pollinators is proud to announce that we will be leading the effort to create a Pollinator Pathway in Newtown. A Pollinator Pathway is a pesticide-free corridor of public and private properties that provide native plant habitat and nutrition for bees, butterflies, and other important animal pollinators. Towns and property owners participate by creating healthy yards and public spaces for pollinators, pets and their families.



Pollinator Pathways are needed because many of our native bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects are in decline due to land fragmentation, small private land ownership, and a lawn culture that requires excessive fertilizers and chemicals and that offers no benefit to wildlife.

The idea for a pathway to support pollinators is not new. It originated with a woman in Oslo, Norway who envisioned a “bee highway” to provide sustenance for bees. A number of “flower stations” were constructed around the city to provide nutrient rich resources for the benefit of bees.

Inspired by that story, representatives from several Wilton, CT organizations got together to create the Pollinator Pathway Initiative. H2H, a regional conservation partnership whose mission is to advance the pace and practice of regional land protection and stewardship from the Hudson to the Housatonic Rivers, has joined the effort to promote Pollinator Pathways in Fairfield, Westchester, and Putnam counties. Newtown joins towns who have already established successful pollinator pathways. They include Darien, Norwalk, Pound Ridge, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton. Several other towns have become interested in joining the “movement”.

Property owners can help bees and other pollinators by creating pesticide-free wildlife habitat gardens at home or anywhere in their community. Even the smallest yard can help provide for pollinators. Planting native plant species - trees, shrubs and wildflowers can provide pollinators with nectar and pollen that best meet their nutritional needs.

Protect Our Pollinators plans to officially launch the Newtown Pollinator Pathway on Sunday, April 7th from 2-4 PM at the Cyrenius Booth Library. Presenters will include Emily May, Xerces Society, Lisa Turoczi, Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery, Mary Ellen LeMay, Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H), and Louise Washer, Norwalk River Watershed Association. We hope that many town residents will join us for this exciting event. For more information on the Pollinator Pathway initiative, visit Pollinator-pathway.org.

