

TOWN OF WINDHAM POLLINATOR PATHWAY

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with populations of native bees and other pollinators in decline, and with five bee species threatened or of special concern in Connecticut and a downward trend being seen in all bee and butterfly populations; and

WHEREAS, pollinators species such as bees, butterflies, birds and others are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems, and support the entire food system; and

WHEREAS, pollinators both depend on and support the native plants of Windham which provide food and shelter for all wildlife, help prevent erosion, keep our waterways clean, and improve the air that we breathe; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are in decline primarily due to land development and fragmentation, a lack of the native plants they need to survive, and a lawn culture that requires excessive fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides and that offers no benefits to bees and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, populations of pollinators can be supported and enhanced by increasing native habitat that is protected from pesticide and herbicides contamination and careful maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides and herbicides is often excessive and inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, residents, businesses and the Town of Windham have been carefully planting pollinator-friendly plants in both public and private areas such as along the East Coast Greenway, and at the Willimantic Whitewater Park, northern High St, the High St parking Lot, the Schilberg Butterfly Garden, the Garden on the Bridge and Heritage Park; and

WHEREAS, many residential gardens (over 100) and businesses in Windham have already chosen to become designated Wildlife Habitats; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research supports the benefits of connecting isolated patches of habitat.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WINDHAM CONNECTICUT does hereby recognize and lend support for:

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and, in so doing, call upon Windham landowners; the Department of Public Works; Recreation Department; Conservation, Open Space and Agriculture Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission; Inland Wetlands Commission; Sustainable Windham Committee; the Garden Club of Windham; the Windham Community Food Network; and all other departments and Commissions or Committees, to take cognizance of this initiative and, as means allow, to create, restore and enhance pollinator habitat on land managed or influenced by the town, and to create linked and safe yards, properties, and trails that can provide pesticide and herbicides-free, native floral resources and habitat for our threatened pollinators.

Habitat plantings by the Town of Windham shall include a diversity of native plant species: flowering trees, shrubs, or forbs known to provide pollen and/or nectar to pollinators, with preference for ecologically appropriate native perennial species in newly planted or restored areas. Plantings should be designed to ensure that flowers are available throughout the growing season. Habitat should also include pollinator nesting sites such as undisturbed soil, undisturbed foliage, and pithy-stemmed plants. As possible, the Town of Windham shall adhere to mowing practices that allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering forage species to bloom and flourish. (See best practices provided by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qLQR48hu-HALkYeQ2928XMAuHlndMnWC/view>.)

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Windham, Connecticut to be affixed on this 4th day of August 2020.
