

## News List

# Town of Weston, Connecticut Pollinator Pathway Resolution

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## Town of Weston, Connecticut Pollinator Pathway Resolution

**WHEREAS**, pollinators are in decline due to destruction and fragmentation of habitat from development, a lack of native plants due to an increase of invasive species, inappropriate and excessive use of pesticides, and a lawn culture that promotes turfgrass monoculture which offers no benefits to pollinators and other wildlife;

**WHEREAS**, pollinator species such as bees, birds, butterflies, and other pollinating insects are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems;

**WHEREAS**, native plants support pollinators and all wildlife in Weston and beyond by providing food and shelter; they also help prevent erosion, keep our waterways clean, restore soil health and improve the air we breathe;

**WHEREAS**, pollination is responsible for most of the food we eat;

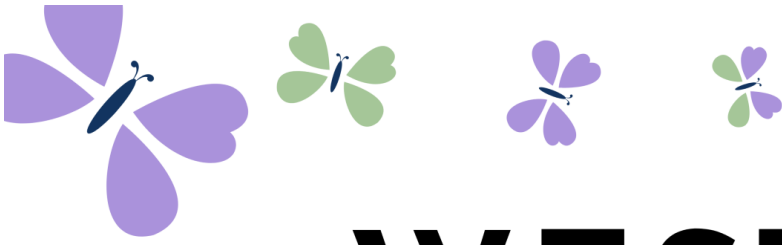
**WHEREAS**, five native bee species are threatened, endangered, or of special concern in Connecticut, and a downward trend is seen in species diversity of bees, butterflies, birds, and many other animals;

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Weston is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, recent scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and reconnecting isolated patches of habitat;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN OF WESTON, CONNECTICUT** does hereby recognize and support the tenets of the Pollinator Pathway Northeast which are to encourage all residents to:

- (1) Reduce lawn size, provide predominantly native and pollinator-supporting plants and assure a sequence of blooms from early spring through fall (see [www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org) for helpful lists);
- (2) Protect and enrich the soil by using organic yard-care practices and avoiding the application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and treated mulch, and leave some areas of bare ground for ground-nesting bees;
- (3) Follow best practices for garden clean up: clean up in the spring, allow plant heads to remain through winter to provide food for wildlife, keep plant stalks standing and leave snags of dead wood for native bees to nest, ‘#leavetheleaves’ on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, soil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators; and
- (4) Have a water feature, e.g., birdbath, fountain, or natural water source.



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