Lyme Pollinator Pathway

Lyme Pollinator Pathway aims to help Lyme residents and friends establish and connect pollinator-friendly habitats that provide food sources for bees, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators.

Create habitat in your backyard to benefit pollinators

Pollinators (Bees, birds, butterflies and others) move pollen from one plant to another, enabling plant cross fertilization and the production of fruit (seeds). Our flowering plants, including much of our food supply, depend upon pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators are in trouble because of a lack of native plants that provide food for them and their young; and wide gaps between habitat. You can help by planting patches of native vegetation to create habitat. If we all grow enough patches, they will connect like stepping stones to create a pollinator pathway of nutrition and protection. Even the smallest patch will help and can create a sense of satisfaction for your participation in this vital community project.

Provide a source of water.

Control invasives

Avoid pesticides.
No caterpillars = no butterflies
No bugs = no bug-eating birds

Reduce your lawn

Leave the leaves and allow "gone-by" flowers to winter over

Add Native Vegetation to your landscape

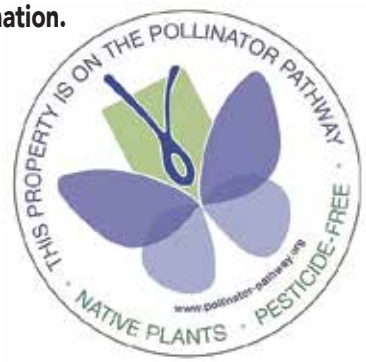
See the back of this flyer for more information.

Join the Pollinator Pathway

Visit us on Facebook and online:
lymelandtrust.org/lyme-pollinator-pathway/

Lymepollinator@gmail.com

Contact us to get placed on our email list and
to get a 6" or 12" Pollinator Pathway medallion to post at your patch.



10/13/23

Bee Pollinator-Friendly

What you can do to Bee Pollinator-Friendly. Lots of little things done by lots of people adds up to a lot.

Rethink your lawn and your idea of beauty in your landscape. Create habitats for pollinators that provide shelter, diverse native vegetation for nourishment, and water. Perfectly manicured lawns do not support biodiversity. Reduce the size of your lawn, and mow it less often.

Grow native pollinator-friendly plants and welcome the native insects that feed on them, especially caterpillars (aim for at least 60% native plants in gardens). Even just one large container planting will help. Our butterflies and moths have co-evolved over a long time with specific native host plants to feed their young. For example, monarch caterpillars can only feed on milkweed plants. Keystone native plants, such as oak trees, are hosts to many native insects. White oaks are host to about 500 native insects. Many bird species depend upon hundreds of caterpillars a day to raise their young.

Leave the leaves and "gone-to-seed" flowers to winter over. The seeds and berries feed birds. Drying and then rotting leaves and stems shelter eggs and larva of butterflies and other insects through the winter. Allow larva time to hatch in the spring before disturbing the beds.

Avoid the use of chemicals–pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and rodenticides. Don't kill native caterpillars and larva that are feeding on your native plants. No caterpillars = no butterflies. No insects = no insect-eating birds. Learn to love holey leaves and petals. Follow the rule of ten. View your plants from 10 feet away. Never use neonicotinoids or buy plants or seeds treated with neonicotinoids. The poison remains in the plants for months and is particularly deadly to bees. Buy your plants from reputable garden centers. Limit the use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers, which are contributing to the degradation of groundwater and water body ecosystems. Never use rodenticides. Rodenticides cause unintended consequences by killing the birds of prey and other animals that prey on the rodents that are poisoned. There are alternatives.

Learn to identify and control invasive plants. Invasive plants crowd out native plants that support insects that birds eat. They do not provide good nutrition and the birds that eat the berries may not have enough energy to survive the long journey for migration. Poison Ivy, although hated by humans, is a native plant and is not considered an invasive species. It is beneficial to native wildlife. Leave it be and remove it only in areas frequented by humans.

Recognize and control Asian Jumping Worms. Although no earthworms are native, most are beneficial. Jumping worms, however, process surface leaf litter and mulch in a way that renders the soil unusable by plants. Look out for soil that looks like coffee grounds or brown popcorn and be careful about bringing contaminated soil home.

Provide a source of water for drinking and bathing. Place a rock or rocks in your birdbath to help insects climb in and out. Clean the bird bath regularly.

Get your soil tested to know what plants will thrive.

Only use lighting when necessary. Excess lighting and glare negatively affect birds and other pollinators. Use warm color lightbulbs. Shield outside lights. If safety is a concern, install motion detector lights and timers. Draw the curtains or shades at night to keep light inside.