

Proclamation
Town of Guilford Pollinator Pathway

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with honey bee colonies experiencing significant annual losses, and with populations of native bees and other pollinators also 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, these declines are driven by a number of factors including habitat loss, pesticide exposure, lack of forage, land development and fragmentation, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of healthy, biodiverse ecosystems depends upon the significant environmental services provided by pollinator species; and

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

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

WHEREAS, research has shown that many pesticides, including fungicides and herbicides, can pose risks to already-compromised bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, integrated pest management - designed to manage pests by addressing the underlying sources of the pest problems and prioritizing techniques that are least toxic to humans and the environment - strengthens efforts to protect pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Guilford can demonstrate its support for pollinators by maintaining pollinator habitat on land managed by the Town and by encouraging residents to plant pollinator-friendly native plants, and to abstain from pesticide use.

NOW, THEREFORE:

The Town of Guilford shall support and enhance safe, healthy pollinator habitat that provides forage and nesting resources, and that is free of pesticides. The Town of Guilford shall assist in identifying appropriate locations for creating and managing habitat, potentially including parks, open spaces and around town owned facilities. Where possible, the Town of Guilford shall seek habitat locations that facilitate habitat connectivity.

The Town of Guilford shall encourage entities, businesses, and residents to participate in developing native pollinator habitat.

To assist residents and businesses in making Guilford a Pollinator Friendly Community, the Town shall support, encourage and to sponsor, when feasible, educational programs, lectures, and demonstration projects, such as pollinator gardens.

This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Guilford to be affixed on this 15th day of March in the year 2021.



Matthew T. Hoey, III
First Selectman
Town of Guilford