



# Introduction to Pollinator Pathways

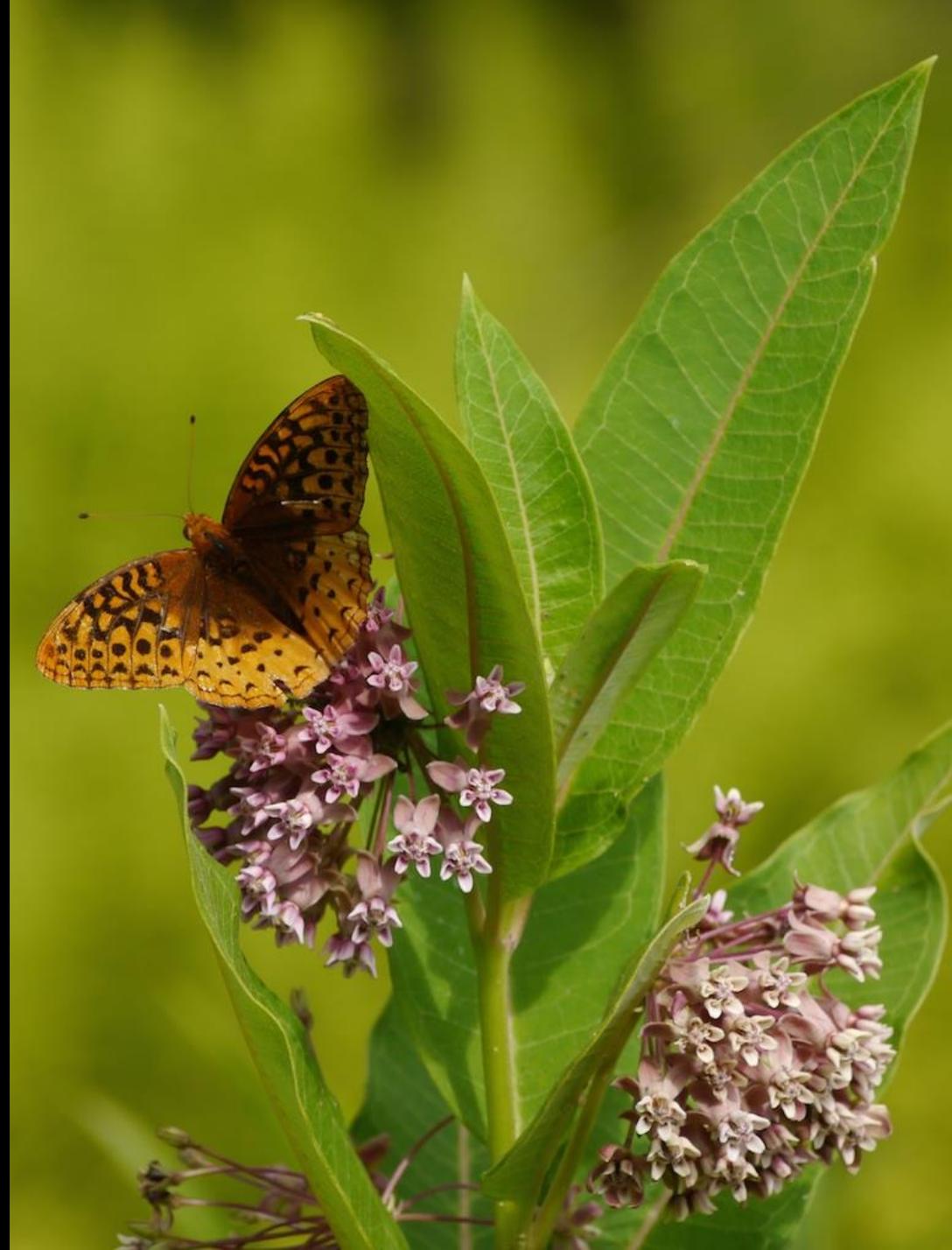
March 14, 2019

CAES Pollinator Conference

Mary Ellen Lemay, Facilitator

Hudson to Housatonic

Regional Conservation Partnership



# The Hudson to Housatonic Region: An Environment Under Stress



Rapid transition from Urban to Suburban to Rural in short distances

**Mission:** The H2H partner network advances the pace and practice of regional land protection and stewardship from the Hudson to the Housatonic by collaborating across boundaries to enhance the connection between people and nature.



**Vision:** A landscape mosaic abundant in forests, farms, wildlands, and waterways of the Hudson to Housatonic Region enriches the quality of life for all who live, work, and play here.

For more information, visit [h2hrcp.org](http://h2hrcp.org)

## Municipal Outreach

Create opportunities for municipalities and community groups to engage in land conservation and stewardship that furthers shared objectives.



*H2H is in the process of building an outreach toolkit to educate municipalities and elected officials about the economic benefits of land conservation and stewardship.*

## Land Protection

Increase the pace of land protection so that XX% of our priority wildlife habitats, parks, trails, gardens, and farms are linked to others by 2060.



*H2H strategic conservation maps are used to prioritize collaborative land protection and community outreach activities.*

## Landowner Engagement

Engage landowners to take stewardship and land protection actions.



*H2H helps public and private landowners enhance pollinator habitat through the creation of a cross-boundary native plant corridor as part of the Pollinator Pathways Program.*



## Training & Capacity Building

Improve the knowledge and capacity of H2H members so they can achieve their shared mission.



*Partner-led workshops offer opportunities for members to learn together and share best practices. A recent training focused on eBird as a tool for community engagement, monitoring, and informing land management.*



# Why Here?



**Fragmentation**

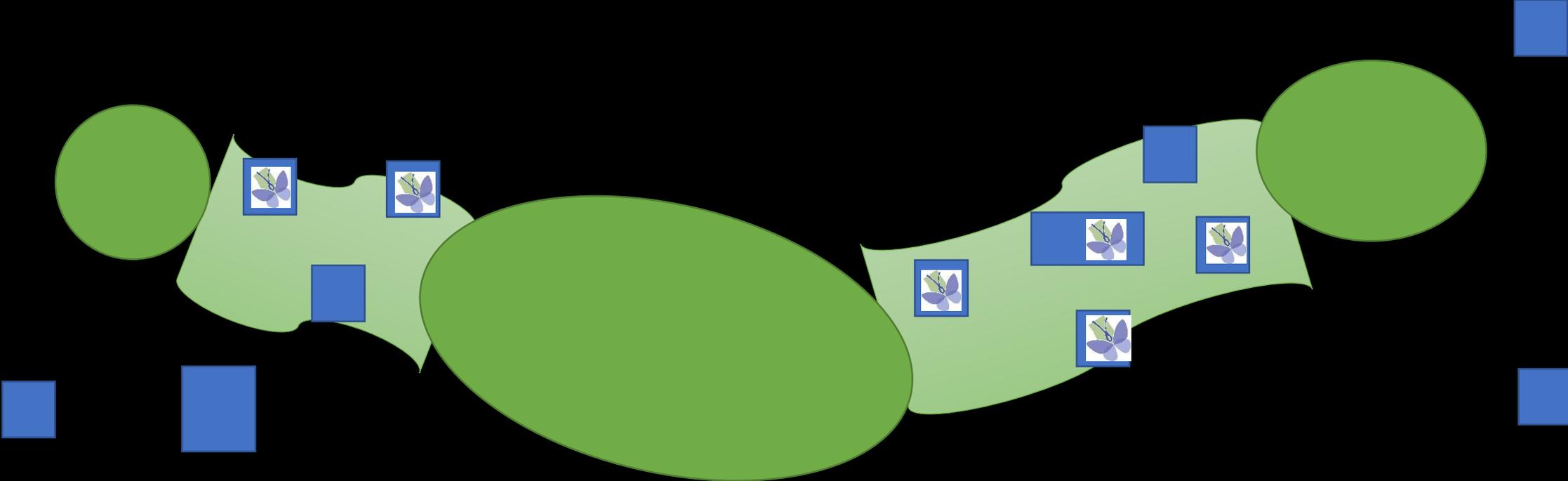


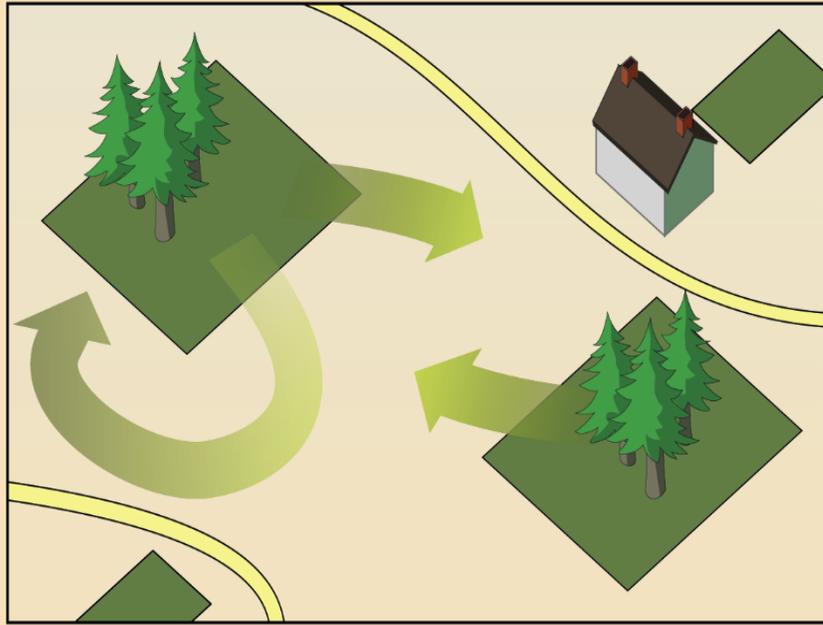
**Smaller private  
ownerships**



**Lawn Culture**

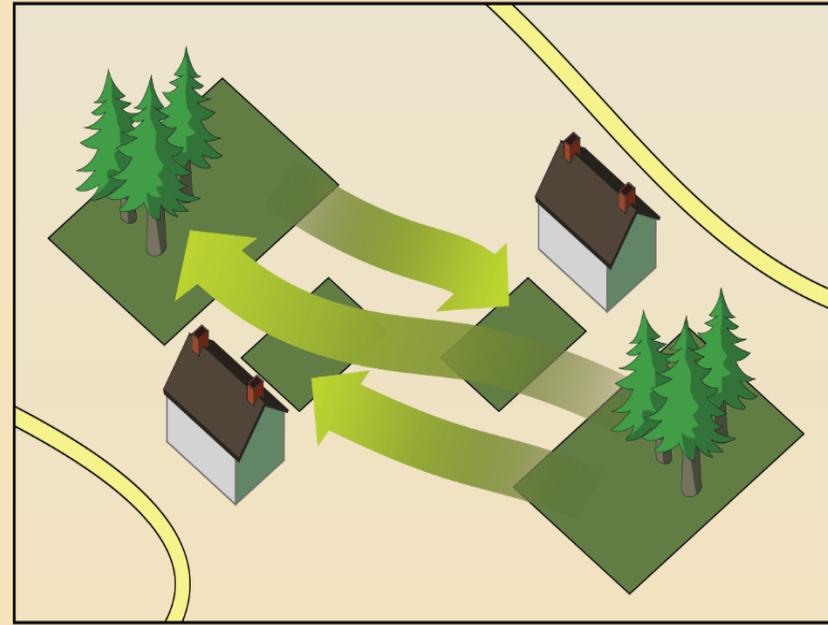
# What is a Pollinator Pathway?





Scenario A: Fragmented Habitats

VS.



Scenario B: Connected Habitats

We can reconnect our landscape by making our private properties into **stepping stones** that create a connected landscape to once again allowing for the *free flow* of species across a healthy, native landscape.



MONARCH GARDENS LLC  
monarchgard.com

# The Pollinator Pathway is a Scalable Model

Demonstration Sites



Land Trusts, Nature Centers, Municipalities, Homeowners

Pollinator Gardens



Land Trusts, Schools, Municipalities



Homeowners, Municipalities, Libraries, Schools, Businesses

Container Gardens



Homeowners, Businesses

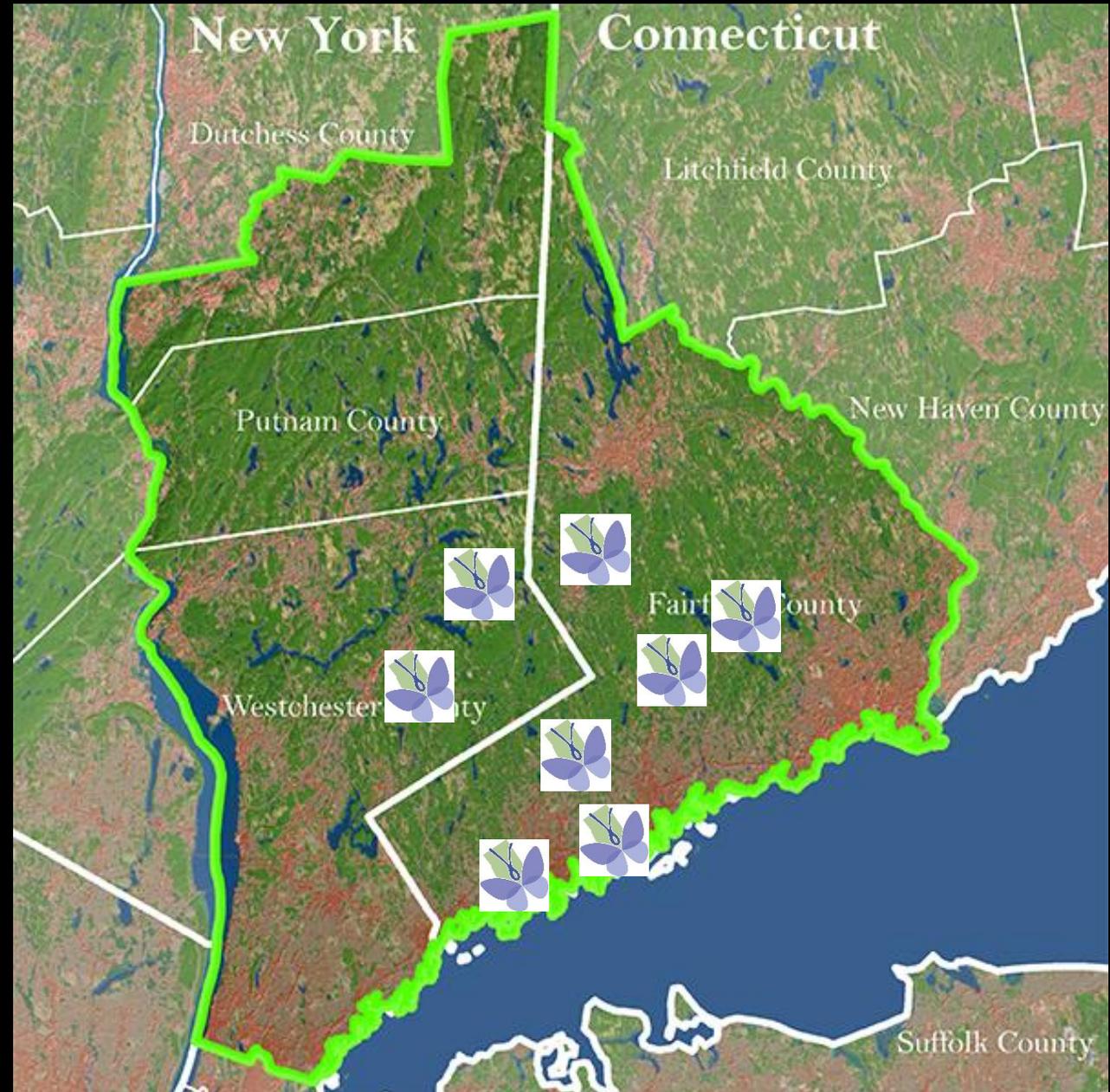
**Planning, Complexity, Cost**

# How do we connect this landscape?

Let's focus on Bees and Trees!  
and so the pathway was born...

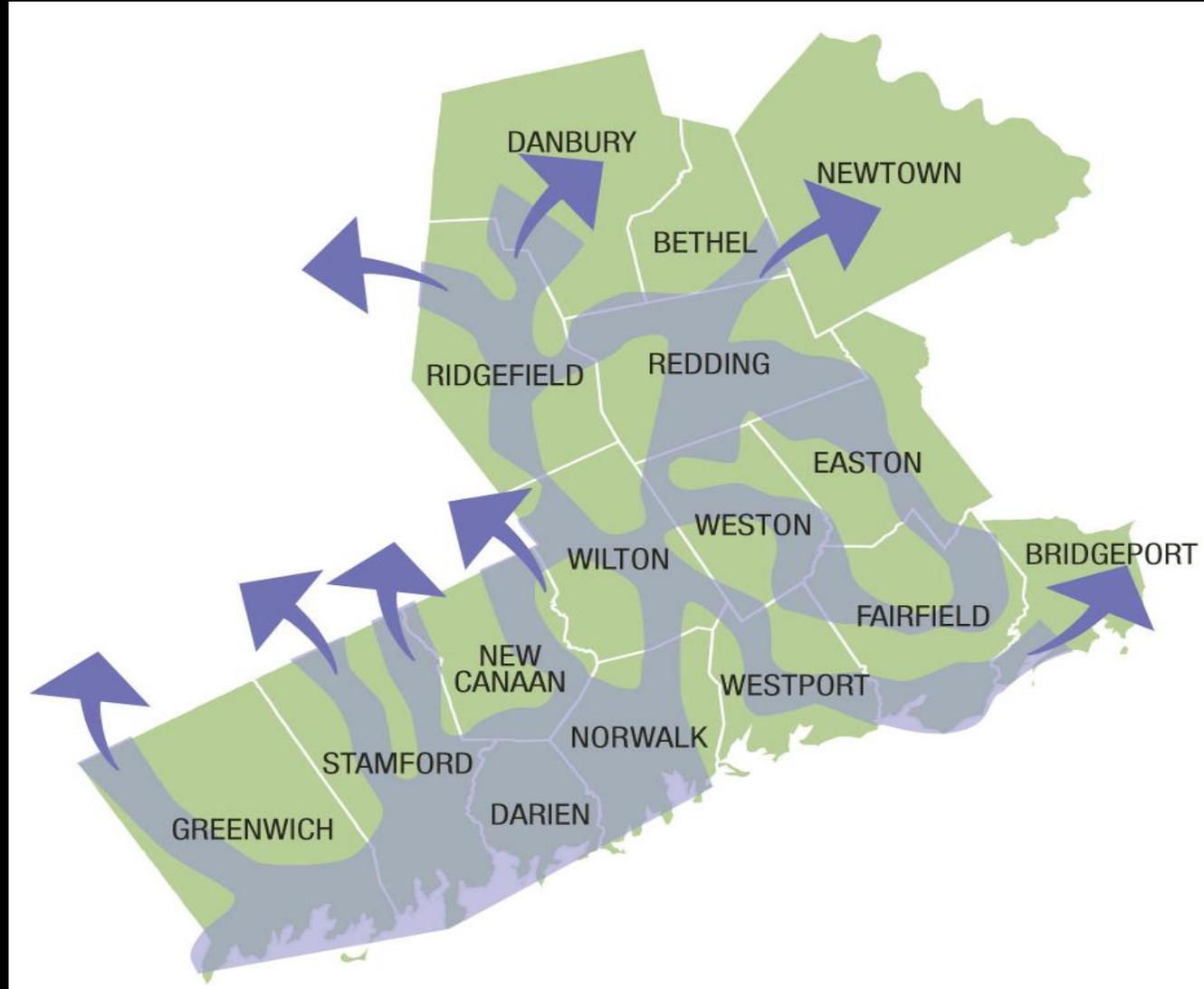


- **2016 H2H Conservation Initiative (pilot)**  
130 people, 40 stewardship actions,  
81 Trees Planted
- CT Pollinator Protection Law passed
- **2017** (launch in Wilton & Ridgefield)  
16 Programs, 1048 people engaged
- **2018** (6 towns)  
44 Programs, 1575 people engaged
- **2019** (25 towns)



# 25 Pollinator Pathway Towns

New York  
Bedford  
Chappaqua &  
**New Castle**  
Croton on Hudson  
Lewisboro  
Mount Kisco  
North Salem  
Pound Ridge  
Teatown  
White Plains  
Yorktown



Connecticut  
Bridgeport  
Danbury  
Darien  
Easton  
Greenwich  
Guilford  
New Canaan  
Newtown  
Norwalk  
Redding  
Ridgefield  
Trumbull  
Weston  
Westport  
Wilton

# Starting a Pollinator Pathway in Your Town

1. Convene Your Team
2. Plan Your Route
3. Hold a Kickoff Event
4. Engage Community Members
5. Spread the Word with Branding
6. Stay Connected



# Convene Your Team

- Land Trusts
- Nature Centers
- Conservation Commissions or Advisory Boards
- Garden Clubs
- Master Gardeners
- Watershed Associations



Wilton Land  
Conservation Trust



WOODCOCK



NATURE CENTER



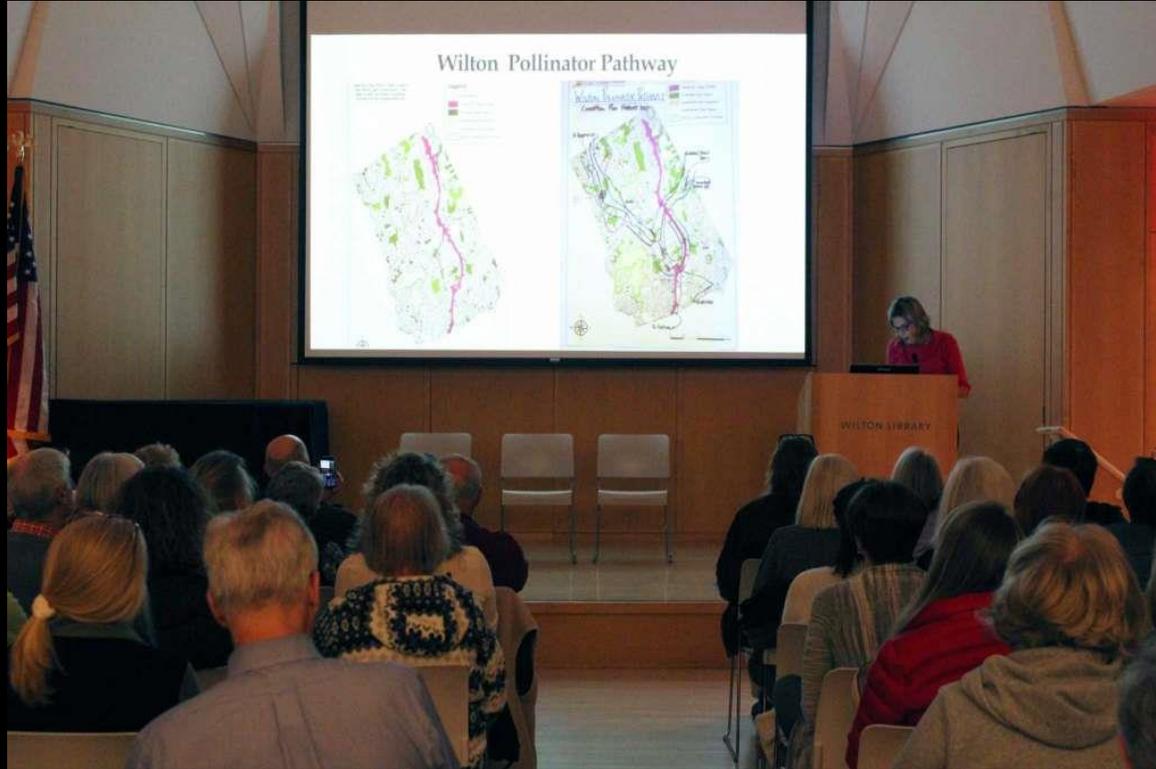
# Building A Town Team

## Meet, Make Plans & Divide Duties

- Talks and educational outreach
- Fundraising
- Location of model gardens in town
- Plantings and upkeep
- Invasive removal
- Publicity



# Hold a Kickoff Event

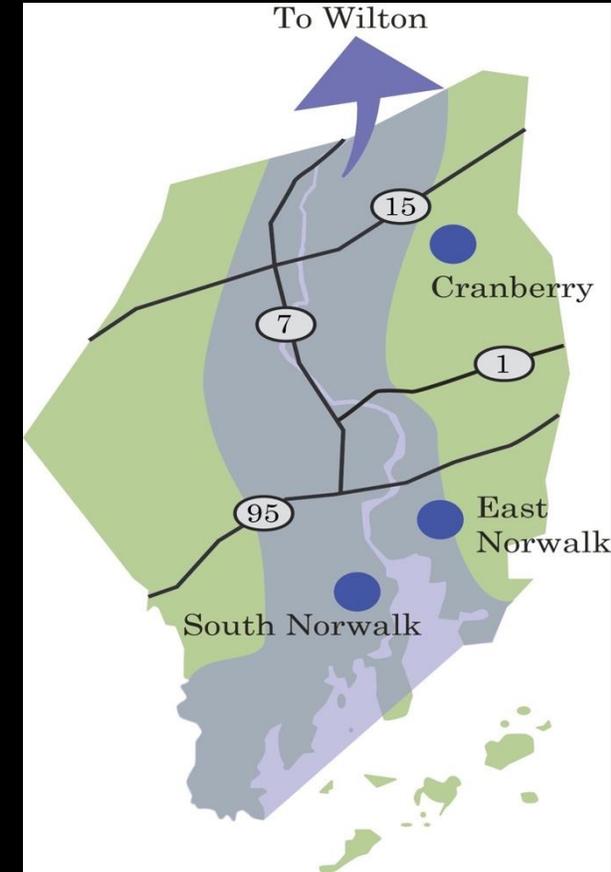
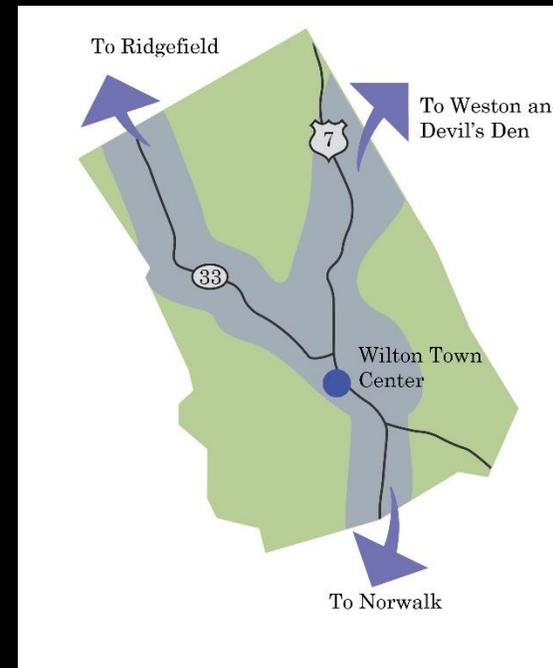
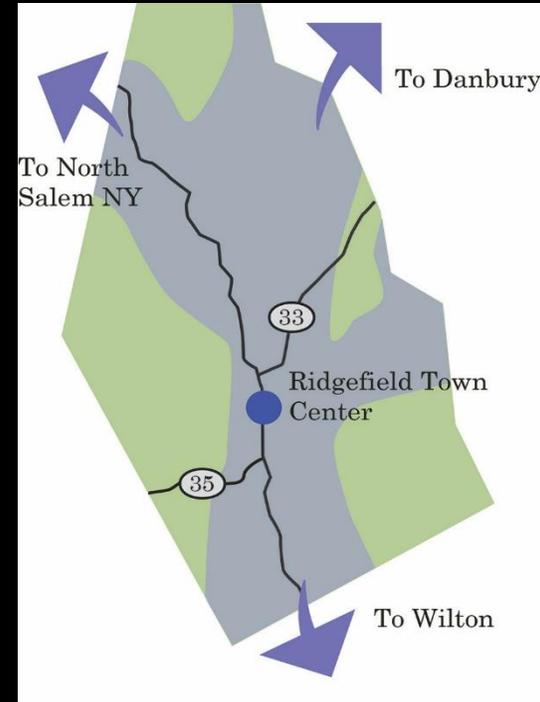


# Plan Your Route



# Connecting Across Towns

- Meet to connect pathways on paper
- Share ideas
  - Weekly workdays for volunteers
  - Containers for downtown areas
  - Citizen science opportunities
- Share resources
  - Speakers list
  - Graphic design and printing options
  - Wholesale plant sources
- Publicize each other's events



# The Message is Simple



## Rethink your lawn

Reduce the size of your lawn, mow less, and use organic lawn care practices



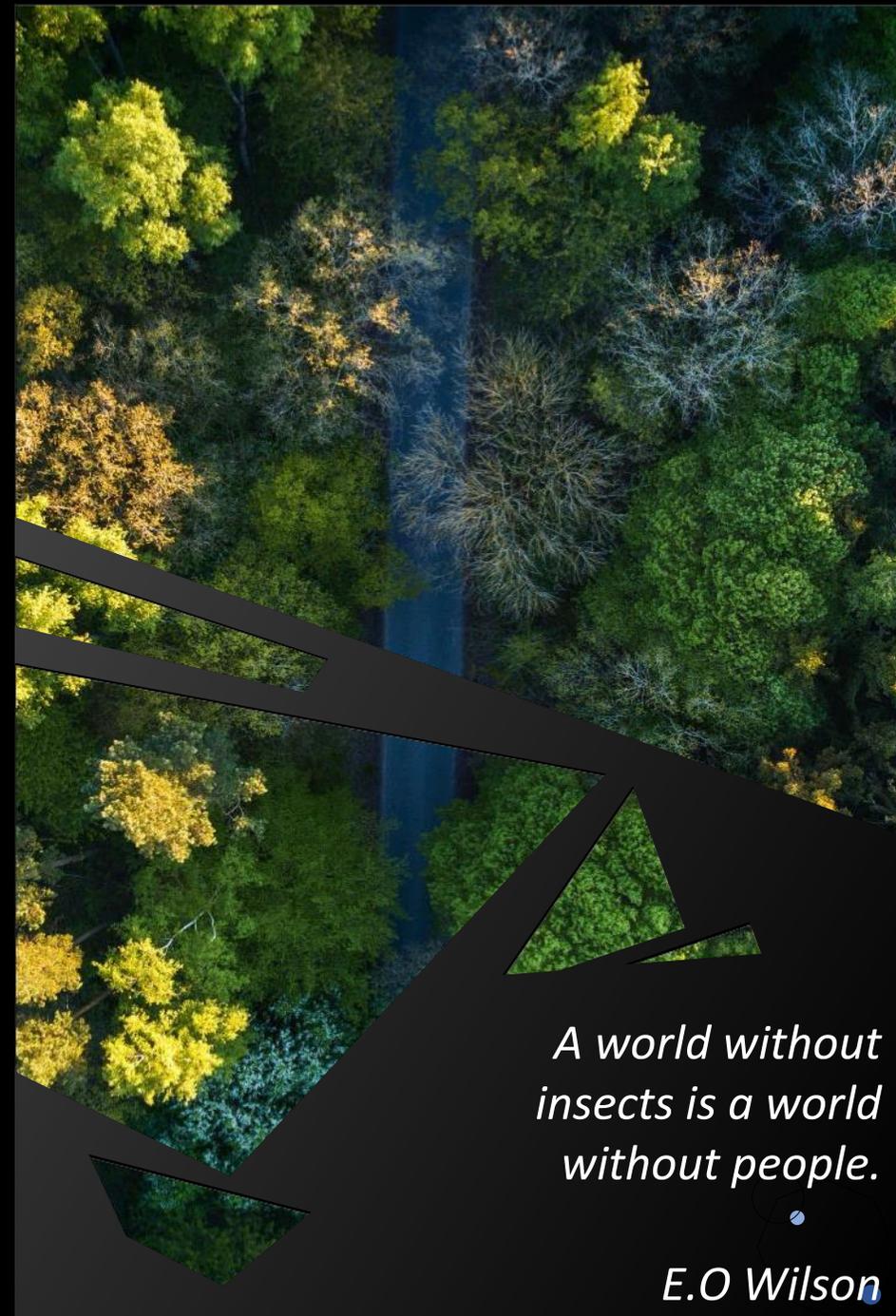
## Plant Native Plants

Native plants bring the pollinators and the birds, and increase the biological diversity of your land



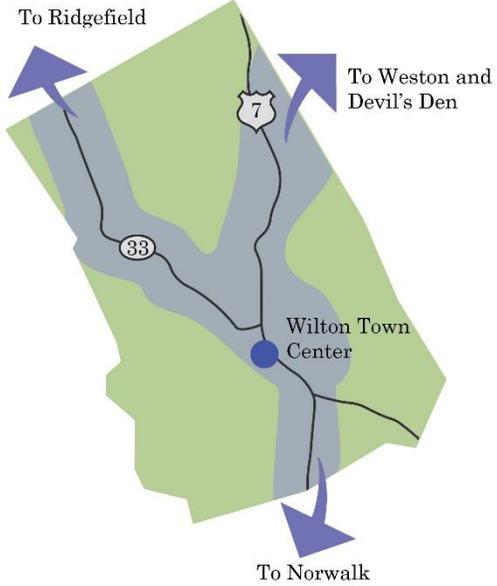
## No Pesticides

Pesticides negatively impact the health of us all.



*A world without insects is a world without people.*

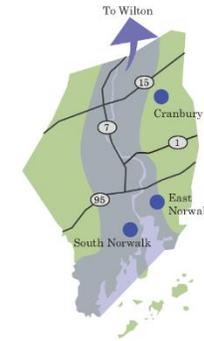
*E.O Wilson*



# Tools

- Mapping
- Logos
- Brochures

## If you plant it, they will come.



### Contact us

**Phone:**  
877-679-2463

**Email:**  
info@pollinator-pathway.org

**On Facebook:**  
@NorwalkPollinatorPathway

**Visit us on the web:**  
Pollinator-pathway.org



The Norwalk Pollinator Pathway is a collaboration of Norwalk River Watershed Association, Norwalk Garden Club, Norwalk River Valley Trail, Norwalk Tree Alliance, Norwalk Tree Advisory Committee, Rowayton Gardeners, Village Creek Homeowners Association and the community of Norwalk.

- Our goal is to create a corridor of contiguous pollinator-friendly properties including the open spaces in Norwalk and the adjacent private ones belonging to residents.
- If you live along the designated Pollinator Pathway we especially hope you'll decide to join the fun and sign up to participate.
- Everyone in Norwalk should consider taking part in the Pollinator Pathway project since the bees and butterflies don't recognize the signs and only look for the nectar!

## Norwalk Pollinator Pathway



Photograph courtesy of the Audubon Society

**What is a Pollinator Pathway?**

- a wildlife corridor providing habitat and nutrition for pollinators
- healthy pesticide-free yards and public spaces for pollinators, pets & families

“The goal is to protect pollinators, forests, fields, and streams, but also to connect open space, people, and towns to each other.”

—Louise Washer,  
President of the Norwalk River Watershed Association

**What are pollinators?**

- birds, bees, butterflies and other insects, bats and other mammals, rodents and amphibians

**What do they do?**

- move pollen from one plant to another, enabling cross fertilization
- allow the reproduction and the growth of new plants — 35% of our food grows as a result of the work pollinators do

**What is threatening our pollinators?**

- widespread application of pesticides and other chemicals on lawns, landscaped plantings, and agricultural crops
- climate changes that lead to lack of larval host plants
- loss of habitat as more and more natural environments become urban and suburban
- the spread of invasive (non-native) plants

Monarch butterfly populations have plummeted by approximately 90 percent in just the last two decades.

—National Wildlife Federation

**How to “Bee” Part of the Pollinator Pathway**

- 1 Create a way-station for pollinators!**
  - plant a window box or a container with pollinator plants
  - provide a source of clean water
  - plant some of your lawn with native plantings including flowers, shrubs and trees
- 2 Rethink your lawn.**
  - leave the clippings on the grass as fertilizer rather than adding chemicals
  - consider the use of slow-release organic fertilizers if you fertilize
  - plant native plants (they attract beneficial insects that get rid of pests)
  - no need for pesticides! this means a healthy lawn for your children and pets too!
  - leave some leaves in beds for over-wintering insects, mow the rest and leave them to help fertilize lawn
- 3 Sign Up!**
  - to sign up, call or email us! Also don't forget to like our Facebook page @norwalkpollinatorpathway and check out our website pollinator-pathway.org to hear about planting parties, get resources about invasive and native plants, and be invited to community events!

# Handouts To Download & Print

- Native Plant Lists
- Best Trees for Pollinators
- Alternatives to Pesticides
- Landscape to Repel Ticks Naturally
- The Problem With Roundup
- Safe Methods for Grub Control
- NRCS Booklets, Order These Free

All available at [Pollinator-pathway.org](http://Pollinator-pathway.org)

## Wildflowers for Pollinators Through the Seasons

Wildflower	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
 Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i>	■	■				
 Ohio Spiderwort <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>		■	■	■		
 White Beardtongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>		■	■	■		
 Milkweed <i>Asclepias</i>		■	■	■	■	
 Anise Hyssop <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>		■	■	■	■	■
 Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>			■	■	■	
 Mountain mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>			■	■	■	
 Blazing Star <i>Liatris</i>			■	■	■	
 Boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>			■	■	■	■
 Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>				■	■	■
 Fall Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i>				■	■	■
 New York Ironweed <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>				■	■	■
 Goldenrod <i>Solidago</i>				■	■	■
 New England Aster <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>					■	■

Wildflowers have habitat preferences for sun or shade, dryness or moisture, and soil type.

More plant lists for various conditions at [Pollinator-Pathway.org](http://Pollinator-Pathway.org).

List compiled with help from CT Agricultural Experiment Station.

# The Story of 2 Dogwoods: A Case for Natives

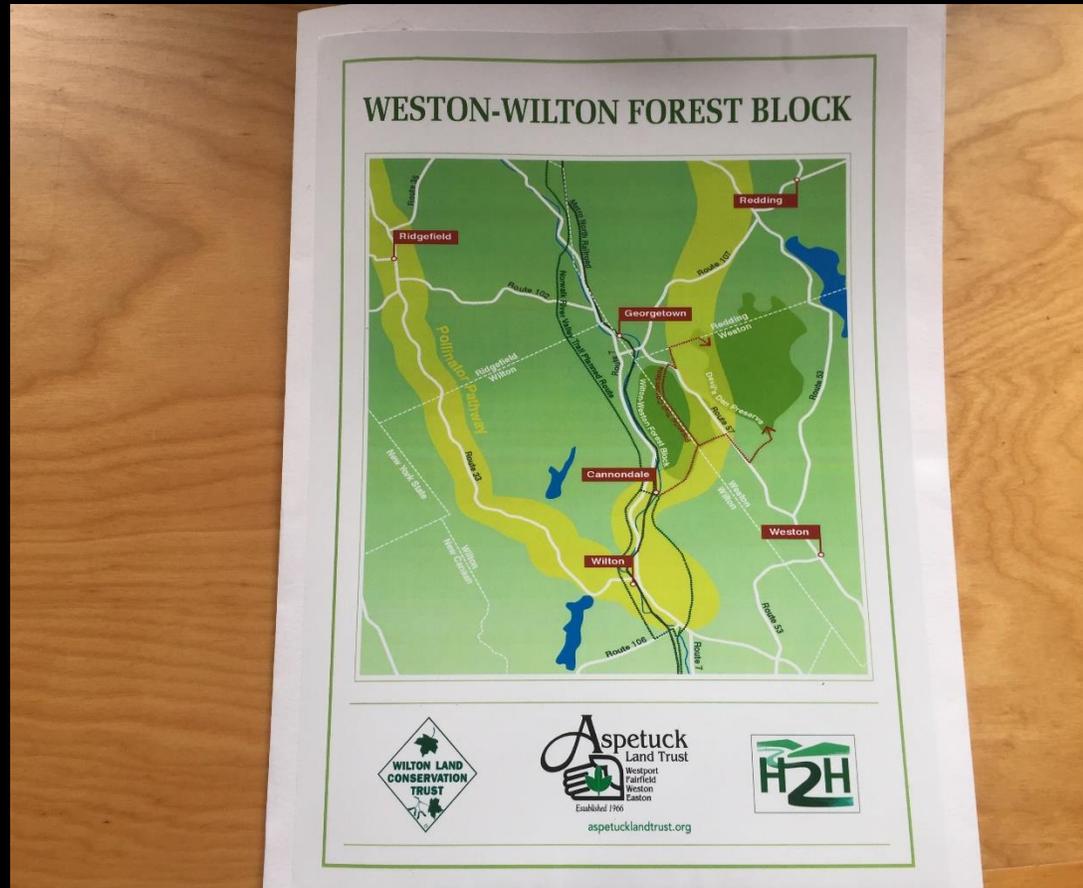
Native Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) supports an entire food web, and is host to the Spring Azure Butterfly



Japanese Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) plays host to no North American butterfly, and is a food source to monkeys in its native range, in Japan



# Pollinator Information Packets



# Drafting Westport's Pledge

**Yes, I would like to join the Westport Pollinator Pathway.**

I pledge to support and protect local pollinators by adding native plants and refraining from the use of pesticides and herbicides.

Features to include:

**A sequence of bloom** from spring to fall, especially native host plants & pollinator favorites

**A water feature** (a bird bath, fountain or natural source)

**Shelter** such as leaf mulch, bee houses, and uncut plant stems for the fall/winter

**Avoidance of pesticides** and herbicides on lawn and garden

**Organic practices** such as compost (no synthetic fertilizers or treated mulch)



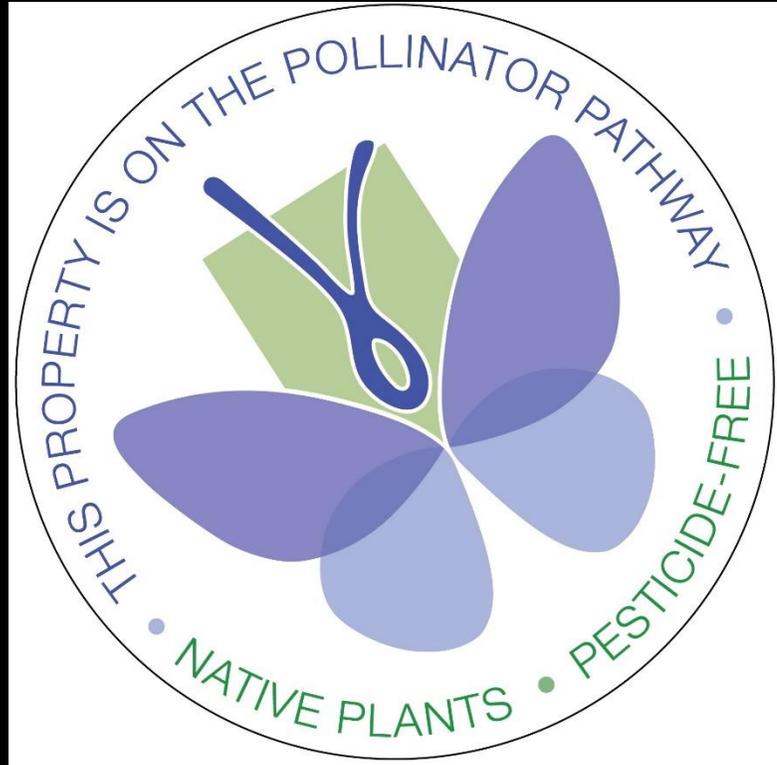
My street address for the Pollinator Pathway map: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add my email to the Pollinator Pathway list: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signs may be purchased for \$5 at Earthplace during business hours

# Signs



6.5" metal signs for homeowners

Lawn signs for public spaces

# Engage Community Members, Corporate Partners, Town Stakeholders and Staff



# Spreading the Word



**ATTEND ALL OUR POLLINATOR SERIES TALKS!**





**Join Westport's Pollinator Pathway – Help protect our environment and the pollinators we can't live without**

To support Westport's joining the Pollinator Pathway initiative, Wakeman Town Farm is hosting a Pollinator Series. These talks will cover the sustainable landscaping and gardening practices that are vital, both to the health of pollinators – and to we humans, who depend on them.

February 25	7-8 p.m.	Resolve To Compost - Encore presentation
March 4	7-8:30 p.m.	Southport Onion event*
March 7	7-8:30 p.m.	Doug Tallamy Event- Darien Library
March 11	7-8 p.m.	Pollinator Pathway Lecture
March 18	7-8 p.m.	Linda Fleming talk - Spring Seed Sowing
March 25	7-8 p.m.	Nathalie Fonteyne - Perennials that Bees Love & Deer Dont
April 8	7-8 p.m.	Bill Kenny - Native Plantings and their benefits
April 22 - Earth Day	7-8 p.m.	Dr. Kim Stoner - Native Bees



For adults (and grade school-aged kids and above, if accompanied by parent/guardian.)  
 Most classes are FREE, but please visit wakemantownfarm.org Under "Programs | Pollinator Pathway Project" to register.

\*\$15 ticket fee



# Facebook Pages



Ridgefield Pollinator Pathway

Ridgefield Pollinator Pathway  
@RidgefieldPollinatorPathway

Home

Like Follow Share ...

Send Message

5.0 5 out of 5 - Based on the opinion of 2 people

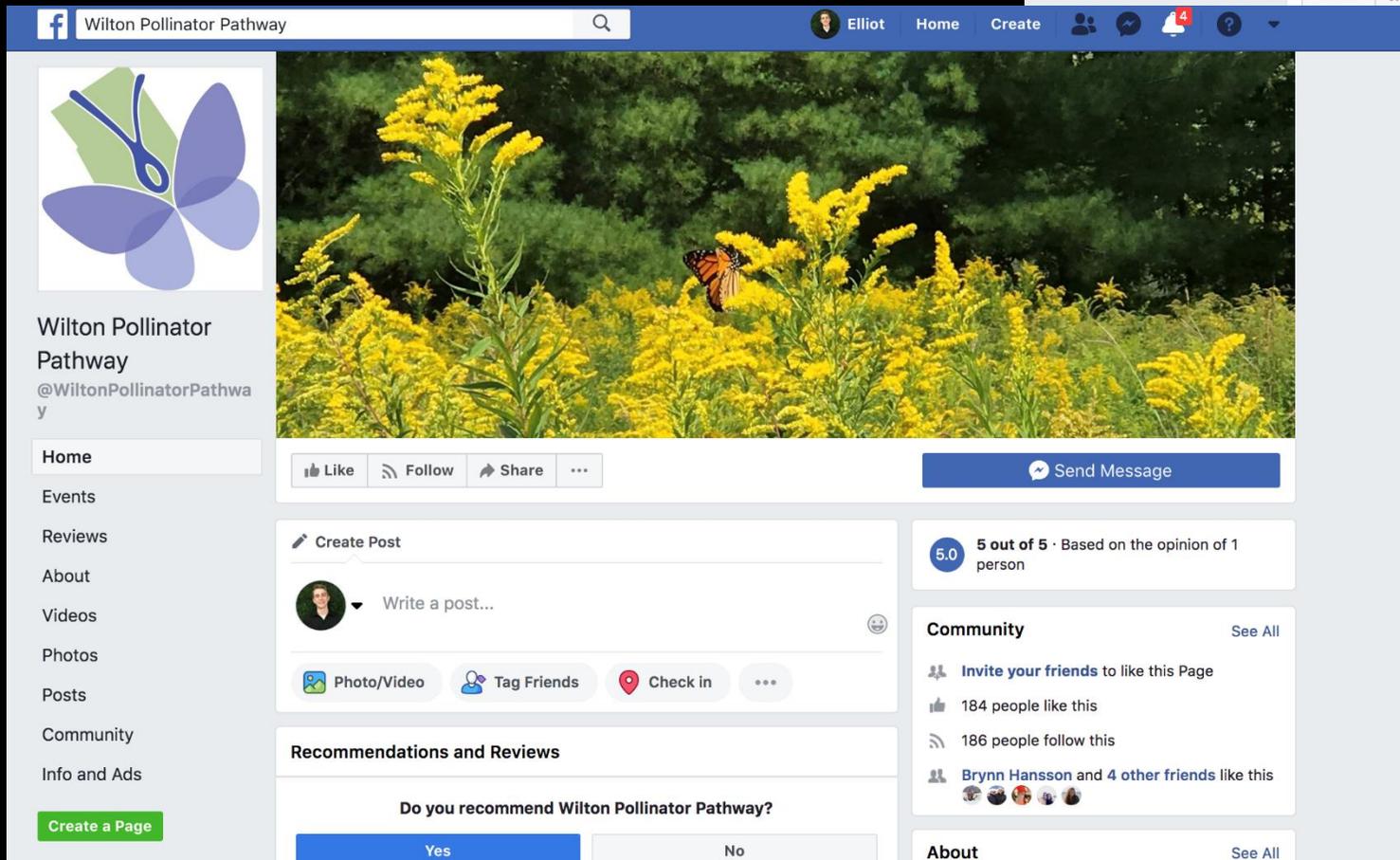
Community See All

- Invite your friends to like this Page
- 46 people like this
- 52 people follow this
- Louise Washer likes this

About See All

Send Message

www.pollinator-pathway.org



Wilton Pollinator Pathway

@WiltonPollinatorPathway

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Events

Reviews

About

Videos

Photos

Posts

Community

Info and Ads

Create a Page

Wilton Pollinator Pathway

Like Follow Share ...

Send Message

Create Post

Write a post...

Photo/Video Tag Friends Check in ...

Recommendations and Reviews

Do you recommend Wilton Pollinator Pathway?

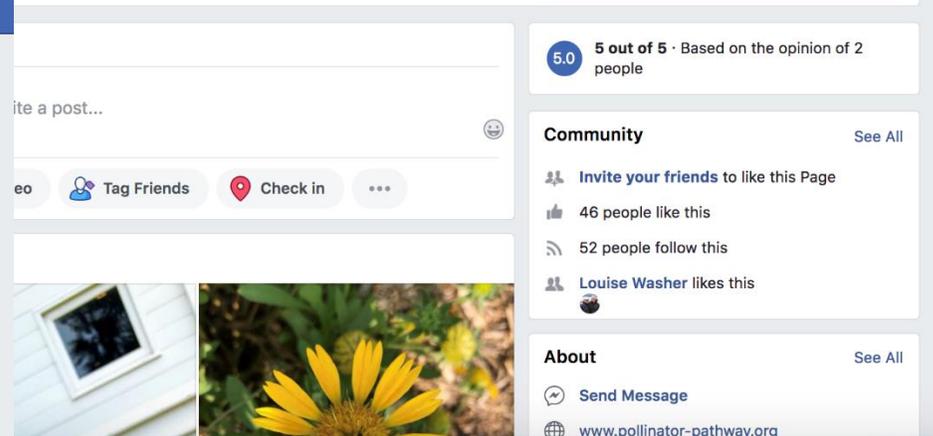
Yes No

5.0 5 out of 5 - Based on the opinion of 1 person

Community See All

- Invite your friends to like this Page
- 184 people like this
- 186 people follow this
- Brynn Hansson and 4 other friends like this

About See All



Write a post...

Tag Friends Check in ...

Community See All

- Invite your friends to like this Page
- 46 people like this
- 52 people follow this
- Louise Washer likes this

About See All

Send Message

www.pollinator-pathway.org

# Shared Website: Pollinator-Pathway.org

- Each town can have administrators and contribute information
- Each town can have a page
- Each town can have an email address ([Darien@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:Darien@pollinator-pathway.org), [Norwalk@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:Norwalk@pollinator-pathway.org)...)
- Events are listed on the home page for all towns



# Stay Connected



[About H2H](#) [News](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Contact Us](#) [Get Updates](#)

## About H2H



Who We Are



What We Do



Where We Work

[h2hrpc.org](http://h2hrpc.org)

## Pollinator Pathways

*Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife*

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Photos courtesy of Dana Cronin

[pollinator-pathway.org](http://pollinator-pathway.org)



“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

-SOCRATES



# Special Thanks to the Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee

Donna Merrill: Executive Director, Wilton Land Conservation Trust

Louise Washer: President, Norwalk River Watershed Association

Jana Hogan: President Woodcock Nature Center, NRWA Board

Kitsey Snow: Chairwoman Ridgefield Conservation Commission, NRWA Board

Liz Craig: Commissioner, Wilton Inland Wetland Commission

Dr. Jackie Algon: Wilton Conservation Commissioner

Mary Ellen Lemay: Facilitator H2H & Aspetuck Land Trust

Kara Hartigan Whelan: VP Westchester Land Trust

Hallie Schwab: Conservationist, Highstead Arboretum

