

Native Pollinator Meadow

What Are Pollinators?

Pollinators, such as birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, beetles, or other animals, move from flower to flower which assists in fertilizing plants and producing fruits and seeds. Our native pollinators and plants depend on each other and, we depend on them! They are important to the reproductive success of over 75% of the world's flowering plants.

Why Create a Native Wildflower Meadow?

Wildflower meadows and gardens are extremely valuable habitat, providing food, nesting sites and a protected environments for insects and other animals. Native meadow habitats, pollinators, and the systems that depend on them are in decline due to development and the use of herbicides. When we plant native meadows, we can rebuild valuable habitat diversity and connectivity in our ecosystem.

What Can you do to help?

- Plant native host and nectar plants for pollinators.
- Remove invasive plants.
- Convert portions of your lawn to native meadow and mow less.
- Provide shelter in the form of windbreaks, ground cover, and overwintering habitat areas, including leaving leaves and plant stalks in the garden in the fall and winter.
- Equip outdoor lights with motion sensors. Lights at night disturb animal behavior.
- Avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides.
- Learn more about native pollinators and share what you learn.

The creation of the pollinator meadow and this sign were supported by a grant from the Nashua Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council.

For more information on the native wildflower pollinator meadow visit:



>> Above Diagram: Landscape Interactions

Photos clockwise from top: Mountain lion by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Bald eagle by Steven M. Bellonin; Bobcat by Forest Wander; Coyote by Brennan Lindsay; Black-capped chickadee by Tim Sackton; White-tailed deer by Henry Mulligan; Eastern cottontail by Ryan Hoddnet; Wood frog by K.P. McFarland; Salix petiolaris by unknown; SBombus perplexus by Norm Levey; Vaccinium macrocarpon by G. Mittelhauser; West Virginia White by M. Silver; Raccoon by MWanner; White-footed mouse by Capri23auto; Common raven by Andrew Lunt.

Pollination Systems— Made Possible by Natives

Plants that are native (indigenous) have long been growing in a particular habitat and region and are well adapted to the climate, light, and soil conditions of their ecosystem. Over time they have developed co-evolutionary relationships with other plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria. This means they rely on one another to thrive.



Monarchs & Milkweed

Monarch butterflies are one of the most well-known species of butterflies, but their numbers are dramatically declining because native milkweed plants are declining. While most butterfly species can feed on a variety of host plants, monarch caterpillars can only survive by eating milkweed. For monarch butterflies to survive, we need more milkweed plants, and you can help by planting milkweed in your home garden!

