

Becoming a Pollinator Friendly Town!



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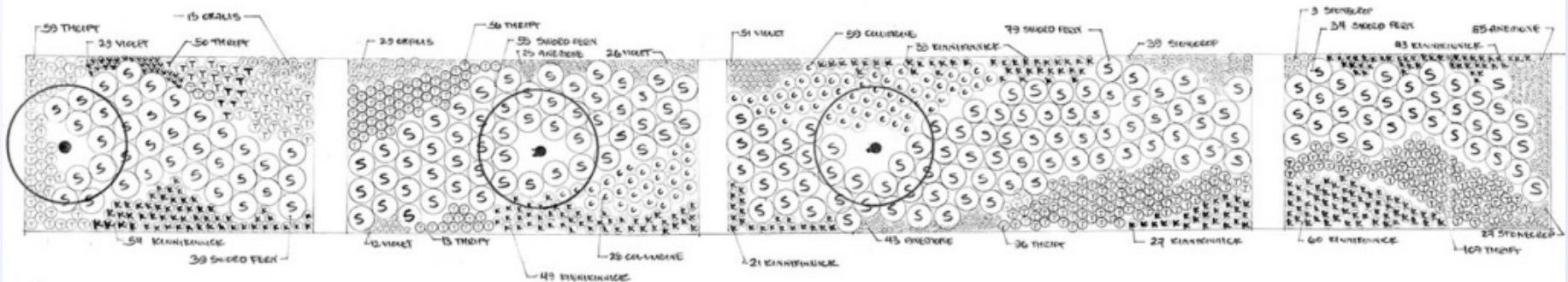
Amy Pulley

Inspired by other Pollinator Projects...

Pollinator Pathways...Seattle WA



A 2 mile continuous strip of native plantings to connect green spaces



The Portland, ME, Pollinator Vision Plan



- *2015 Conway School plan for creating pollinator corridors in urban and suburban spaces*
- *Result will be connecting urban residents with nature on a daily basis and provide lasting benefits to the residents and visitors of Portland*



Municipalities that adopted Pollinator-Friendly Resolutions

- **Great Barrington – May 9, 2016**
- **Cummington – May 7, 2017**
- **Plainfield – May 7, 2017**
- **Williamstown – May 16, 2017**
- **North Adams – January 23, 2018**
- **Windsor – working on it!**



Common provisions

- Promote pollinator health
- Commitments to reducing / eliminating neonicotinoids on municipally owned properties
- Promote practices for managing land in ways to increase pollinator forage and nest sights while reducing costs
- Urge residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods to become more pollinator friendly



Supportive land-care practices

- Replacing portions of turf with low maintenance flowering perennial shrubs, wildflowers, and trees.
- Allowing fallen leaves along edges, under trees and shrubs as overwintering sites for insects (and birds).
- Mowing schedule: allow flowering ground covers to bloom to provide food for pollinators throughout the seasons and to reduce overall maintenance costs.
- Pollinator corridors to connect bigger habitat areas



Neonicotinoids are neurotoxins that hurt bees by:

- Impairing learning ability
- Disorientation: navigation and food collection
- Killing them outright
- Increasing susceptibility to diseases
- Hurting reproduction



Effects of Herbicides

Reduce plant diversity, including the diversity of weedy, non-invasive wildflowers that provide essential pollen and nectar for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds



Great Barrington

Factors that helped pass the resolution

- Volunteers in town government positions
- Emphasized voluntary and educational intent
- Met with both supporters and opponents
- Experts: referrals, endorsements, and helped present



Great Barrington

Taking Action

- **Agriculture Commission joined WMPN in 2017**
- **Hired Conway School of Landscape Design to write a paper give a presentation 3/1/18**
 - **How can the community help pollinators?**
 - **How can GB embrace low-cost pollinator habitat?**
- **Provide Great Barrington Pollinator Plan as a free resource for institutions and residents**



Other Town Successes

- Plainfield
- Cummington
- Williamstown
- North Adams
- Windsor – working on it!



Town Meeting Process

- Identify each town's TM dates
- Date to provide wording of article
- Date for signatures
- *Plan your outreach and presentations around these dates*



H.4041, An Act protecting Massachusetts pollinators

Sponsor: Rep. Carolyn Dykema / 134 Co-Sponsors

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- Restricts sale + use of neonics to licensed applicators
- Restricts application of neonics during the blooming season to Ag and horticultural use
- Requires notification of property owners of the risks of neonics to pollinators
- Directs MassDOT to consider installation of native forage on MA-owned property in the place of turf



Western Mass Pollinator Networks

- Establish 1,001 pollinator-friendly gardens
- Inspire towns to adopt practices that benefit pollinators and expand habitat
- Encourage garden centers to offer more pesticide-free seeds and plants





- **Calendar of Workshops
Join Email Listserve**
- **Events in western Mass**
- **Examples of Resolutions**
- **Resources for design and
planting**
- **Vetted sources for non-treated
plants**



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