

# **DRAFT**

## **POLLINATOR PATHWAY RESOLUTION FOR WILTON, CT**

*WHEREAS, pollinators are in decline due to destruction and fragmentation of habitat from development, a lack of native plants due to an increase of invasive species, inappropriate and excessive use of pesticides, and a lawn culture that promotes turf grass monoculture which offers no benefits to pollinators and other wildlife;*

*WHEREAS, pollinator species such as bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects are vital to maintaining healthy and diverse ecosystems;*

*WHEREAS, native plants support pollinators and all wildlife in Wilton and beyond by providing food and shelter; they also help prevent erosion, keep our waterways clean, restore soil health and improve the air we breathe;*

*WHEREAS, pollination is responsible for many of the fruits and vegetables we eat;*

*WHEREAS, five native bee species are threatened, endangered or of special concern in Connecticut and a downward trend is seen in species diversity of bees, butterflies, birds, and many other animals;*

*WHEREAS, recent scientific research supports the benefits of restoring and reconnecting isolated patches of habitat;*

*WHEREAS, the Town of Wilton is cognizant of the need for safe and healthy landscapes for its residents and habitat for important pollinators;*

*WHEREAS, the Pollinator Pathway Resolution supports the Town of Wilton Sustainable CT Certification effort.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN OF WILTON, CONNECTICUT does hereby recognize and support the*



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*Pollinator Pathway Resolution and encourages all residents, commercial and municipal organizations to:*

*(1) Reduce lawn size by converting areas to predominantly native and pollinator-supporting plants which assure a sequence of blooms from early spring through fall (see [www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org) for helpful lists); eradicate invasive plant species to ensure sufficient nutrients, light and water for native plants;*

*(2) Protect and enrich soil by using organic yard-care practices and avoid using pesticides and herbicides. When pesticides and/or herbicides are deemed absolutely necessary, avoid attracting pollinators and consider hiring an Integrated Pest Management professional with knowledge of how to treat the problems with the least negative impact on the environment;*

*(3) Follow best practices for garden clean up: clean up in the spring rather than in fall, allow plant heads to remain through winter when possible, to provide food for wildlife; keep plant stalks standing and leave snags of dead wood and bare spots on the property for native bees to nest; leave the leaves on flower beds through fall and winter to provide habitat, soil nourishment and protection for overwintering pollinators; let turf grow through May before mowing to allow ground-nesting pollinators to emerge safely and find food, then mow turf at least three inches high and leave cuttings to fertilize the soil, mowing every other or third week; and*

*(4) Provide a source of clean water for wildlife, e.g., bird bath, fountain or natural water source*