

Fwd: White Plains Beautification joining in to bring back the pollinators

From: Pollinators WhitePlains (pollinatorswp@gmail.com)

To: acusto01@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 5:54 PM EDT

Subject: White Plains Beautification joining in to bring back the pollinators

To: Pollinators WhitePlains (PollinatorsWP@gmail.com) <PollinatorsWP@gmail.com>

From Nancy Giges

Thank you for inviting us to speak at the June meeting of the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations about the introduction of Pollinator Pathways into White Plains by White Plains Beautification Foundation. Here below is the information that we provided and below that links for more information.

Pollinator Pathways is a movement started in Seattle about a decade ago by an artist/designer, visionary, concerned citizen named Sarah Bergmann as a way to reverse the looming environmental threat faced by the loss of pollinators. The two basic tenets are plant native plants and eliminate pesticides. Over a period of years, the Seattle community came together – businesses and residents - and did just that for a mile-long 12-foot-wide stretch in Seattle joining two parks. From there, other areas in the city followed suit and now communities across the country are doing the same thing.

In our region, the initiative started about three years ago and is coordinated by two conservation organizations Hudson to Housatonic and Westchester Land Trust. The programs are implemented by each individual community in whatever way they think works best for them. More than 30 communities in our H-to-H (Hudson to Housatonic rivers region) have committed to starting programs. You can read more about it at pollinator-pathway.org website. In White Plains, [Beautification](#) is the perfect match because of its strong relationship with the city and its infrastructure including its eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. We have met with the Mayor and key members of his team as well as Commissioner of Recreation & Parks Wayne Bass and Deputy Commissioner of DPW Stefania Mignone and all are enthusiastically on board.

Jacqui Bergonzi then gave a snapshot of her presentation about why supporting pollinators is so important and is available to speak before White Plains groups by request.

For White Plains, we are planning an educational component, such as a speaker series; parent and child activities; working with schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, other youth groups. The Beautification gardens will gradually incorporate native plants, starting with two demonstration

gardens this year. We hope residents, businesses and other institutions will also embrace the effort. Importantly, we are looking for volunteers to help us make all of this happen. Volunteers do not have to be experts or even knowledgeable to play a role. See attachment for volunteer opportunities. We would also like to have an ambassador from each neighborhood to help us get out the word. One association (Highlands) has already set aside funds for native plants for its neighborhood garden.

We have an organization meeting next week. If you would like to attend, please email us for details.

Attached are other relevant materials that you can use to pass along to your memberships.

We look forward to hearing from you. Contact us at pollinatorsWP@gmail.com

Excellent how-to-get-started-with-a-native-plant-garden booklet online: [Native Plants for the Small Yard](#) by Kate Brandes (too large to email)

Many organizations have lists of native plants on their websites, including the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, New York Botanical Garden, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Native Plant Trust (formerly the New England Wildflower Society).



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County Executive George Latimer Signs Executive Order to Protect Native Plants in Westchester.html
50.4kB



Copy of Create a Pollinator Garden.pdf
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