

“Bee” a Pollinator Pal!

Pollinators play a crucial role in our ecosystems, and are essential for the survival of all plants, animals, and humans. Unfortunately, pollinators like bees are declining due to habitat loss, invasive species, parasites, pesticides, and more. The good news is that there is much that we can do to help the pollinators around us. Just like people, pollinators need food, water, shelter, and a safe and healthy environment to live in and raise their young. Here are some ways you can help pollinators in the nature spaces around you.

Pollinator-Friendly Plants

Help make a habitat for pollinators! Grow native or pollen producing plants in the nature spaces around you, whether in a garden, or even pots or your porch. Plants provide important food shelter for pollinators! This could include plants like native milkweed species. Milkweeds are the only plant that can host Monarch butterfly caterpillars.



Homes For Nesting Bees

There are thousands of bee species native to North America, and most of those don't form hives like the European Honeybee. Instead, many female bees lay their eggs in decaying wood or in sandy soil. You can offer nesting spots by leaving dead tree branches or logs and bare patches of sandy soil in your nature spaces. You can also build or buy bee houses.

Avoid Harsh Chemicals

Many pollinators are insects, and are effected by chemicals like pesticides. Herbicides like weed killer also effect important pollinator food sources. An important way to help pollinators is to maintain your nature spaces in more natural ways. Even keeping around plants that are considered weeds—like clover flowers or dandelions—in the grass can be a great way to help local pollinators.

