

Choosing Sites for Pollinator Enhancement



The following considerations can be used to guide prioritization of sites for pollinator habitat.

- **Roadside width:** Wider sites are preferred, since they support a greater number of pollinators, and a higher diversity of pollinator species. Medians are low priorities because they are often narrow and, due to their placement between roads, may pose a higher risk from vehicle mortality to pollinators.
- **Road density:** Sites should not be isolated within areas of high road density in which there are multiple barriers to pollinator movement (e.g., a cloverleaf median off an interstate interchange in an urban area).
- **Visibility to the public:** Consider prioritizing sites that are more visible to the public if public awareness and education is a goal.
- **Traffic density:** Sites along roads with higher traffic density may be less desirable for pollinators. However, these roads often have wider rights-of-way and are more visible to the public. If considering plantings in areas with highly trafficked roadways, avoid planting in narrow medians or immediately adjacent to roadways. Pollinators attracted to these areas are more likely to be killed by vehicles.
- **Presence of focal pollinator species:** Prioritize locations where a listed or imperiled pollinator species is known to be in the vicinity or was previously found at the site.
- **Landscape connectivity:** Prioritize sites that improve connectivity of existing habitat within the landscape. For example, is the site near or connected to a natural area (e.g., state park, national forest, nature preserve)? Or does it connect with existing high-quality roadside vegetation?
- **Landscape diversity:** Prioritize sites that exist in an area important to the target pollinator species and is in a landscape in which habitat is scarce, and therefore roadside habitat would be particularly valuable to pollinators.

For more detail, please see:

Pollinator Habitat Conservation Along Roadways, Volumes 1-16. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Project materials available here: <https://www.trb.org/NCHRP/NCHRPWOD362.aspx>

This fact sheet was created through NCHRP 20-44(55): Implementing NCHRP Guides on Pollinator Habitat Conservation along Roadways.

Banner Photo: Lisa Kuder, Maryland DOT

