

## EX AH Pollinator Gardens



A few years ago we wrote about a pollinator festival that took place at Trinity Episcopal Church and called attention to the variety and importance of these creatures in our lives. Then last year we wrote about the six pollinator gardens that were planted in Asylum Hill to help move the effort along. Now we're here to let you know about the Northeast Pollinator Pathway.

First, a definition. Many of

the insects and birds that serve to pollinate plants tend to migrate with the changing seasons. To do so, they need to find good quality food sources at regular intervals along the way. The most productive plants for these creatures to feed on are native species, the ones they're accustomed to and also perennial plants that will be there for many years. Lastly, they should be free of herbicides and pesticides as often these are poisonous, not just to pests, but to many if not all pollinators. While having perennials is ideal, as long as the flowers aren't invasive, the bees and butterflies don't seem to mind, and a well-kept garden of Zinnias are pretty popular as witnessed above.

Creating these pathways is an effort to restore what nature originally provided, and what human civilization largely disrupted.

The pollinators that were put in last year are continuing to expand, and of course while not specifically a pollinator garden, the Niles Community Garden is a very popular spot for many bees, butterflies, moths and even an occasional hummingbird.

In addition to those planted last year, there are plans to add one around the outside of the Hawthorn/Sigourney Community Garden.

This pathway in Asylum Hill is only a small part of the network of pollinator pathways up and down the east coast. In fact, nearly all of Connecticut is in one pathway or another.

If you go to <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/towns-1/connecticut> you'll see that 70 of the 169 towns are listed. For more photos of the pollinator gardens in bloom go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yTRNguMRBMYxX26L6>

