

# TOWN OF WOODSTOCK CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Erin Moran, Coordinator  
Kenneth Panza, Secretary  
Alex Bolotow, Woodstock  
Environmental Commission

Application for 3 Points

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## PE1 Action: National/Regional Climate Program

3 Points

## Pollinator Pathway



[The Pollinator Pathway Project](#) is a participatory art, design and ecology social sculpture initiative founded by the artist and designer Sarah Bergmann. Its objective is to connect existing isolated green spaces and create a more hospitable urban environment for pollinators like bees with a system of ecological corridors of flowering plants by using existing urban infrastructure such as curb space and rooftops. Since late 2013, Bergmann has offered a certification program for new pathways to use the trademarked Pollinator Pathway name.

A Pollinator Pathway project is organized by volunteers from town conservation organizations working together to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a series of continuous corridors. Most native bees have a range of about 750 meters, so the goal is to connect properties that are no farther apart than that.

Pollinator Pathway Northeast project began in 2017 in Wilton, CT. Since then, pathways have been established in over 85 towns in CT and NY.

[Towns Along the New York Pollinator Pathway](#)



[Pollinator Pathway Northeast](#)

## The Insect Apocalypse is Coming<sup>1</sup>

It's being called the unnoticed apocalypse: The number of insects is declining rapidly and 41% of bug species face extinction, scientists say. "If these massive declines continue, the ramifications are enormous," said Dave Goulson, a professor of biology at the University of Sussex in the UK and the author of a new report on insect decline for the UK Wildlife Trusts. "Three quarters of our crops depend on insect pollinators. Crops will begin to fail. We won't have things like strawberries," he told CNN. "We can't feed 7.5 billion people without insects."

<sup>1</sup> Katie Hunt, CNN, "The insect apocalypse is coming. Here's what you can do about it," November 14, 2019, Available at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/13/europe/insect-apocalypse-report-scn/index.html>

However, the report says we can all act as first responders and take relatively simple steps to help reverse what the report describes as a "catastrophic decline in the abundance and diversity of insects." "Insects live in our parks and gardens. Gardeners can really make a difference," he said.

Collapses in bug populations have been reported in Germany and in Puerto Rico. And a global scientific review published earlier this year estimated that, on average, the number of insects is declining by 2.5% each year, with more than 40% of insect species threatened with extinction.

In North America, the report said five bumblebee species have undergone massive declines in range and abundance in the last 25 years, with one, Franklin's bumblebee, going extinct. In Ohio, the butterfly population has fallen by a third.

In the United States, scientists recently found the population of monarch butterflies fell by 90 percent in the last 20 years, a loss of 900 million individuals; the rusty-patched bumblebee, which once lived in 28 states, dropped by 87 percent over the same period. With other, less-studied insect species, one butterfly researcher told me, "all we can do is wave our arms and say, 'It's not here anymore!'" Still, the most disquieting thing wasn't the disappearance of certain species of insects; it was the deeper worry, shared by Riis and many others, that a whole insect world might be quietly going missing, a loss of abundance that could alter the planet in unknowable ways. "We notice the losses," says David Wagner, an entomologist at the University of Connecticut. "It's the diminishment that we don't see."<sup>2</sup>

### Yale Environment 360

The impact of introduced plants on biodiversity has emerged as a hot-button issue in ecology. At Yale Environment 360, science writer Janet Marinelli reports on how recent research provides new evidence that the displacement of native plant communities is a key cause of the collapse of insect populations and is affecting birds as well. Nearly half of the planet's land is now in some form of agriculture; 44 percent of planted forests contain non-native trees; and urban and suburban landscaping is rife with introduced species. As Marinelli writes, many insects depend on a limited number of plants for survival, so when native species are replaced it can have profound impacts on the insects that rely on them.<sup>3</sup>

For years, Doug Tallamy sounded the alarm about the grave threat that plants introduced from abroad pose to native insects. By transforming native plant communities into so-called novel landscapes increasingly dominated by exotic species on which many insects cannot feed, the University of Delaware entomologist speculated, they imperil not only insects but also the birds and other animals that depend on insects for survival.

Doug Tallamy was the featured presenter at a Woodstock Pollinator Pathway event.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Brooke Jarvis, "The Insect Apocalypse Is Here," New York Times Magazine, November 27, 2018, Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/magazine/insect-apocalypse.html>

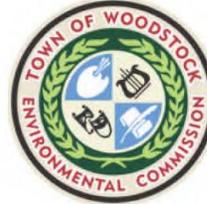
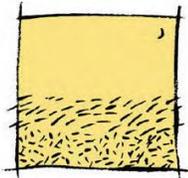
<sup>3</sup> Janet Marinelli, "How Non-Native Plants Are Contributing to a Global Insect Decline," Yale Environment 360, December 8, 2020, Available at <https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-non-native-plants-are-contributing-to-a-global-insect-decline>

<sup>4</sup> "Nature's Best Hope with Doug Tallamy," Woodstock Pollinator Pathway, YouTube video, October 8, 2020, Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH3g1du847g&feature=youtu.be>

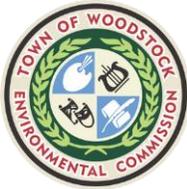
## Woodstock NY Pollinator Pathway

Woodstock NY Pollinator Pathway is a project of Woodstock Land Conservancy, Catskill Center, Woodstock NY Transition, Woodstock Environmental Commission, and Community Member Partners.

[Woodstock NY Pollinator Pathway Project](#)

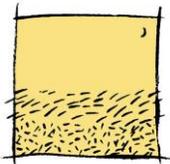


### Woodstock Environmental Commission



Alex Bolotow, a member of the Woodstock Environmental Commission, is the commission's representative to the Woodstock Pollinator Pathway Project. Alex represented Woodstock in the planning meetings, introduced several of the online webinars, and promoted the pathway events on the commission's Facebook page. Pre-Covid-19, town buildings were made available without charge for pathway meetings and events.

### Woodstock Land Conservancy



Founded in 1988 by a dedicated group of local citizens, the Woodstock Land Conservancy (WLC) is a non-profit land trust run by a small staff and an all-volunteer Board of Directors. At its core, WLC is a community of dedicated and generous volunteers, supporters, and community members who share a love and respect for the land and the unique place we live. WLC is committed to the protection and preservation of open lands, forests, water resources, scenic areas and historic sites in Woodstock and the surrounding area.

WLC owns and manages undeveloped land and works with landowners to permanently protect their property through conservation easements and by acquiring their land through donation or sale. We also provide nature education and outdoor activities to the community.

WLC is the lead agency for the Woodstock Pollinator Project, hosting the webinars and making the arrangements on behalf of the committee.

### Catskill Center for Conservation and Development



Our mission is to protect and foster the environmental, cultural and economic well-being of the Catskill region. Since 1969, we have led the effort to protect the more than 700,000 acres of the Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve.

Founded in 1969, it is headquartered in the historic Erpf House along state highway NY 28 in Arkville, just outside the Catskill Park Blue Line. It works to

further its mission through different methods, from advocacy and land conservation to developing educational materials and sponsoring arts and cultural events. The Catskill Center staff oversees programs covering various areas: arts and culture, education and natural resources.

The education program develops materials for local teachers to use as curriculum, especially the five-volume *The Catskills: A Sense of Place*. Other environmental education programs focus on the region's streams and watersheds. The natural resources program manages the Platte Clove Preserve and the 155-acre Esopus Bend near Saugerties. It also holds conservation easements on other key tracts in the region not part of the state-owned, "forever wild", Forest Preserve or otherwise protected.

## Woodstock Transition



The Transition Town Movement is comprised of vibrant, grassroots initiatives that seek to build community resilience in response to such challenges as resource depletion, climate change, and economic instability. Our little town is part of a locally focused, world-wide movement that is currently active in over two thousand different places on this planet. Each Transition Town Initiative is made up of self-organized, small working groups formed by community members. A lot gets done in these groups, all over the world!

On June 11, 2011, about 45 Mid-Hudson Valley residents gathered together at Lifebridge Sanctuary in Rosendale, NY, for the first Train for Transition (T4T, now called Launch). On September 11, 2011, four Woodstock area residents, who completed the T4T training called their friends and acquaintances together to share the Transition Vision. On March 20th, 2012, Woodstock NY Transition became the 1151h official Transition Town in the United States.

As a Transition Community, we believe it is the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation that will afford us the necessary building blocks for the establishment of a sustainable and resilient community. For we know the future is to be invented and the collective unleashing of the community genius is a pathway to actualize our future together.

While locally controlled, WNYT is part of the International Transition Movement that first emerged in the United Kingdom in 2006 and has now inspired hundreds of communities throughout the world. We take tremendous inspiration from Transition US.

[Transition HUB United States](#)

## We Need Your Help To Plan For 2021 – Take a Survey

**January 8, 2021:** The Woodstock Pollinator Pathway Planning Committee is hard at work planning for 2021. The Pollinator Pathway project is a true community effort and we on the planning committee need your feedback to help direct our plans to best accommodate your abilities, needs, wants, and goals for the coming planting season.

[Help us help you succeed in your pollinator planting goals by filling out this short survey.](#)

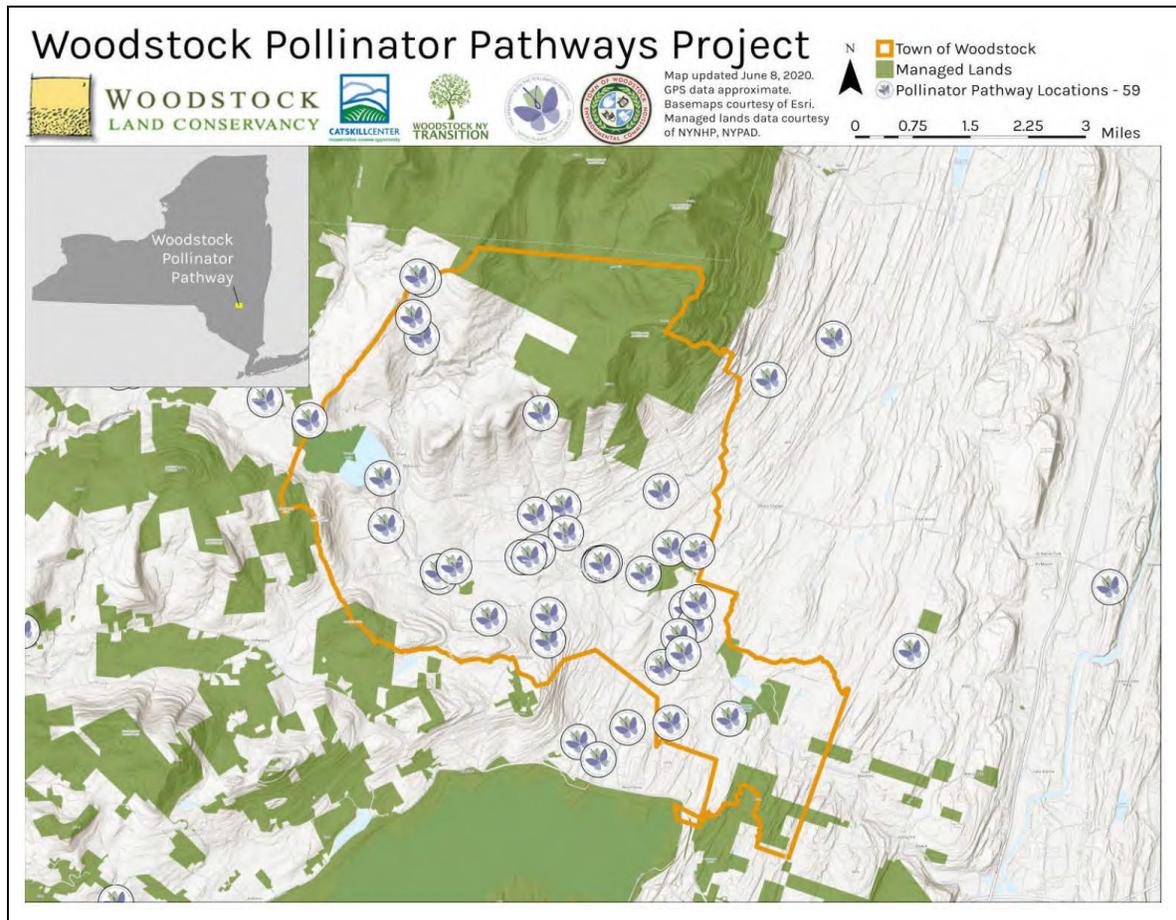


Have You Joined?



## Woodstock Pollinator Pathway Map

The map shows the pollinator areas created by people who have joined the Woodstock, NY Pollinator Pathway. We hope to have pollinator gardens as close together as possible so that pollinators can fly easily from one to another. To date, over 140 properties are participating in the Woodstock pathway project.



### [Woodstock Pollinator Pathway Newsletters](#)

The Pathway publishes periodic newsletters to promote appropriate pathway plants, identify pollinating insects, announce upcoming events, and credit successful pathway gardens.

The Woodstock Pollinator Pathway's main goal is to build a "pathway" of closely connected pollinator-friendly habitats, neighborhood by neighborhood. Many pollinators cannot fly far without access to food and shelter. And our individual yards are part of a larger ecosystem that pollinators need to move around in. A pathway creates connected pollinator-friendly areas in our own and our neighbors' yards. It is vital to speak to your neighbors and encourage them to join this effort.

[Woodstock Pollinator Events and Videos](#)

A list of Woodstock Pollinator Pathway events promoting pollinator gardens and plants held this summer. In response to COVID-19 restrictions, these events were hosted on video.

2/24/2020	Launch of The Woodstock NY Pollinator Pathway
3/24/2020	Designing Gardens from Nature: A Webinar with Karin Ursula Edmondson
5/15/2020	Pollinator Garden Talk: Planning Your Garden Q&A with Experts Webinar
6/25/2020	Getting to Know Your Landscape: Site Inventory & Analysis
7/9/2020	Working with Your Landscape: Planting and Care of Native Plants
8/27/2020	The DOT Method of Meadow Installation by Del Orloske
9/16/2020	All About Bees with Chris Layman of Fox Farm Apiary
10/2/2020	Native Seed Exchange and Garden Tour
10/7/2020	Nature's Best Hope with Doug Tallamy
1/9/2021	Survey of membership for 2021 plans