WELCOME TO THE Botanic Buzzline

A student team working with Cornell Botanic Gardens developed this flowering pathway to connect pollinator populations to the gardens.

The Time To Act Is Now

Planting flowers is one of the best ways you can help pollinators. Take a brochure, explore the Buzzline, get inspired, and find flowering plants you can grow at home to support your local pollinators!

CORNELL BOTANIC GARDENS

A Pollinator Highway

Wherever buildings are constructed, natural areas may become separated from one another, trapping small insects and animals on “green islands.” Pollinator pathways are one way to connect these fragmented natural spaces and help the smallest pollinators, such as hoverflies, make their journey from plant to plant.

The Botanic Buzzline connects natural spaces along Tower Road to gardens around Cornell Botanic Gardens’ Nevin Welcome Center.

Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele*)

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Pollinators in Peril

Pollinators are dying. Monarch butterfly populations have decreased 80% over the past 20 years, nearly 1 in 4 monitored native bee species are at risk of extinction, and invertebrate species counts are as much as 45% lower than 40 years ago. Pesticides, pathogens, habitat loss, and climate change are some of the human-caused reasons for these declines, and unless we take action, the future looks bleak for pollinators - and us!

Locust Borer (*Megacyllene robiniae*)

Soldier Beetle (*Chauliognathus spp.*)

The Great Insect Apocalypse

If all pollinators disappeared, so would close to 80% of the world's flowering plants. Many of our favorite fruits and vegetables—apples, blueberries, cherries, avocados, almonds, and broccoli—depend on pollinators. Without pollinators, we could lose one out of every three bites of our food, ecosystems will be thrown off balance, and life will continue on a lonelier and much less colorful Earth.

Plants rely on pollinators – butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, birds and bats – to carry pollen from male flowers to female flowers and cones to produce fruits and seeds.

The Hidden Life of Bees

Solitary bees, which make up over 85% of bee species, don't live in colonies or have a queen. Instead, they nest in underground burrows or hollowed-out stems to lay their individual broods.

Solitary bees are important because they often pollinate plants more effectively than social bees. They are also non-aggressive, making them great neighbors to have in your backyard!

You can help solitary bees by providing food (a variety of flowering plants), and shelter (dry flower stems, bare ground and dead wood), and setting aside natural spaces.

Syrphid Fly (*Allograpta obliqua*)

Pollinators Big and Small

More than 200,000 different species of pollinators help plants all over the world produce seeds and reproduce. Most people are familiar with bees and butterflies as important pollinators, but tiny beetles, flies, and moths play a huge role in pollination as well!

These small pollinators are especially threatened by the fragmentation of green spaces because many can only travel short distances between stops for nectar.

Continuous flowering pathways like the Botanic Buzzline help these pollinators reach new plants to better spread pollen and maintain biodiversity.