

- **SLIDE 4: Where to begin**
 - Let's look at the Eco Ag Center at the Sullivan County Complex in Unity as a case study on using the four strategies . The map seen here is prior to 2015.
 - The first strategy is recognizing existing habitat. Some ways to do this include:
 - **Take Inventory of Existing Flowering plants**
 - Start by watching to see which plants pollinators are visiting. This is best done on a sunny day. Note where these plants already occur on your property or larger landscape. This might lead to reevaluating weeds or allowing them to bloom in patches.
 - **Identify Bee Nest Sites**
 - Ground nesting bee habitat occurs in sparsely vegetated patches of soil in well-drained areas, often on slopes. Wood nesting bees will nest in dead wood and hollow twigs of herbaceous plants. Bumble bees nest in old rodent burrows, under grass tussocks, in birdhouses, and old compost piles.
 - Rotting logs, overgrown areas, rock piles and brush piles may provide cover for pupating butterflies or overwintering bumble bees.
 - When we surveyed the initial area for pollinator habitat, we mostly looked at the small vegetative buffer along the pond. This is what that area looked like.
 - We noticed some spring blooming willow, fire cherry, and apple trees. Brambles that bloom late spring and summer, multi-floral rose that blooms in summer, and goldenrod that blooms in fall. There is a dirt road along the pond that has some compacted exposed soils. There was loose exposed soil under some of the trees. The rest of the area was mowed for hay at the time. The second strategy is to protect the area that already exists. We did this by keeping snags and logs in the buffer and by designating an area to be an organic community garden. No pesticides, herbicides, or other harmful chemicals would be used in gardening this area. We also kept the riparian buffer and wetlands around the pond intact.
- **SLIDE 5: History of Eco Ag Center – Planning for pollinator support**
 - Over the past 8 years, this area has been built up into a pollinator friendly community space. In 2013, the Conservation District created an organic community garden that grows vegetables, berries, fruit trees, and a mix of annual and perennial flowers. 2 high tunnels for agricultural research were added in 2014. The native pollinator garden was added in 2015 along with planting more native pollinator trees and shrubs along the pond edge. An outdoor classroom area with log benches was added in 2016. A hügelkultur bed was added in 2017. It is a medicinal plant, cut flower and asparagus bed. And we planted 6 basswood trees in the parking area. Large maple logs were added in 2021.
- **SLIDE 9**
 - Put up **signage** about the habitat, **monitor pollinators** through community science projects, **engage volunteers** in maintenance of gardens and bee hotels.

- **SLIDE 10**

- If you build it, they will come. Here are some pictures of pollinators using the Eco Ag Center space.

- **SLIDE 16**

- Let's take a look at some of the **Pollinator Support Networks**. These networks educate, support, and promote pollinator gardens. You can find native plant lists and sources, connections to others in the network, and even funding opportunities. Many grassroots networks have been popping up encouraging people to see their own yards as the place to start. Much more lawn in the US than natural and protected areas. Start within your own sphere of influence and make a big impact by connecting with others that are doing the same thing.
- **The pollinator partnership** is a larger organization that was formed by many conservation organizations coming together and has large funders (like Toyota). From my experience, it is more research, science, and education based. This is the group that founded the National Pollinator Week in 2007. They have some great pollinator guides, fact sheets, grant resources, and large scale programs.
- The top 2 organizations I know are promoting this type of support are Pollinator Pathway and Homegrown National Park.
 - **Homegrown National Park** is about more than pollinators. Its focus is to increase biodiversity everywhere to support local ecosystems and human communities.
 - **What is a Pollinator Pathway?** Public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway.
- **Local resources:** Upper Valley Pollinator Partnership was going strong in 2017-2018, but seems to be off the map now. Maybe they reached their 100 gardens.- <https://www.hanovernh.org/390/Upper-Valley-Pollinator-Information>
- **NH Audubon** - <https://www.nhaudubon.org/conservation/pollinators/>
- **NH Butterfly monitoring network** – not about creating gardens, but about monitoring pollinators.