



# Join the Irondequoit Pollinator Pathway



**Color Irondequoit Green** (CIG) invites you to join the Irondequoit Pollinator Pathway to beautify your yard while supporting our local pollinators. Pollinator Pathways provide corridors of critical healthy native habitat and food sources for butterflies, moths, bees, other pollinating insects, birds, and other wildlife. *Along with a goal of  $\frac{2}{3}$  native plants, annuals and favorite non-natives can be included in your gardens.*

Here is the [simple form](#) you'll be completing to receive the garden sign recognizing your participation in Irondequoit's Pollinator Pathway.

If you are considering alternatives to traditional lawns and gardens such as cottage meadows and naturalized landscapes, please refer to Irondequoit's updated Residential Landscaping Guidelines to make your desired garden changes meet [town guidelines on pages 11-13](#). You may notice other helpful suggestions throughout the Residential Landscaping Guidelines.

## **How to Participate**

### **1A. Identify native plants that are already growing in your garden.**

Phone apps and books are good sources for identifying the native plants in your yard. See CIGs list of recommended apps that enable you to identify plants. There are many apps – some free and some for purchase that are becoming increasingly accurate. It is still worthwhile to double-check their answers with a secondary app or with another resource. Free apps to consider are [PlanetNet](#) and [Seek by iNaturalist](#). [Picture This](#) is a favorite app with a cost.

\*Include your native plants on the submission form.

- Ensure the plants are native to New York State. There are many cultivars/hybrids of native plants at garden stores that do not contain the nectar and/or nutrients of true native plants. Cultivated plants are bred for their beautiful flowers and foliage. It's okay to include cultivars and non-native plants in your garden in addition to the required 10 or more native plants that support our native insects, birds, and other wildlife.
- **The botanical or Latin name (*Genus and species*) is very important since some common names refer to many different plants, and some Latin names have several common names. For example, *Liatris spicata* is known as gayfeather, snakeroot, and blazing star.**

### **1B. Add native plants.**

Include at least 10 native plants between your existing and newly planted perennials, shrubs, and trees that are native to New York State. To provide pollinator food sources it's important to include at least 3 plants each for early, mid and late season blooms. You may need to visit a native plant nursery, use native plant catalogues, or get divisions of native perennials from friends. You will find more plants on-line, in catalogues, or at [more native plant options](#).

\*Check off these new native plants on the submission form for a total of at least 10.

## **2. Provide a source of water for pollinators.**

Examples are birdbaths, butterfly puddling area, water garden or pond, a stream, or a spring. Change the water 2-3 times per week during warm weather when mosquitos are breeding. To learn more go to: [Water and Shelter for Pollinators – Cornell Cooperative Extension](#).

\*Check off the water source(s) on the submission form.

## **3. Provide at least three types of shelter for pollinators.**

Examples are spaces of bare ground, a rock pile/wall, dead wood, human-made boxes, and leaving garden clean-up until late spring. To learn more go to: [Nesting and Overwintering Habitat - Xerces.org](#)

\*Check off the 3 shelter sources on your submission form.

## **4. Avoid pesticides and chemical fertilizers completely, or as much as possible.**

- Pesticides are commonly used to kill invertebrate pests, diseases, and weeds. However, many pesticides - including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides - harm pollinators and other beneficial insects, toads, and frogs. More information on [pesticides and pollinators-Xerces.org](#).
- Chemical fertilizers degrade soil health and can pollute our waterways. Instead, try using compost and your autumn leaves as a natural and free organic fertilizer for your garden beds.

## **5. Submit your completed Irondequoit Pollinator Pathway form.**

- When completed, arrange to submit your form and pick up your Irondequoit Pollinator Pathway sign. Please print out the form and mail it to CIG, 2674 St Paul Blvd., Rochester, NY. 14617.
- The signs are paid for by Color Irondequoit Green. Upon receiving your sign, a donation is appreciated.
- Display your sign in your yard.
- Thank you for joining our Irondequoit Pollinator Pathway. Our goal is to have gardeners in all of our neighborhoods join the countywide Pathway. Your sign may encourage neighbors, helping us expand corridors of native habitats!

**\*\*Consider adding your address to the national Pollinator Pathway map at**

[Pollinator-Pathway.org](#)

The Pollinator Pathway is a national effort. We have utilized resources from organizations including [Pollinator Pathway National Organization](#), [Homegrown National Park](#), [Xerces Society](#), [Cornell Cooperative Extension - Monroe County Master Gardeners](#) and the [Penfield Pollinator Pathway Program](#) create this opportunity for Irondequoit residents. ***The Irondequoit efforts will be linked with a local umbrella organization, [Healthy Yards Monroe County](#).***