



CITY OF WARWICK

FRANK J. PICOZZI, MAYOR

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POLLINATOR EXPO SEPT 28: FREE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ENGAGE IN WARWICK'S "POLLINATOR PATHWAY" EFFORT *City Wildlife & Conservation Commission program features all-ages pollinator photo contest!*

WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND: All are invited to take part in a Pollinator Expo, rain or shine, on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Clouds Hill Victorian House Museum, 4157 Post Road, with the free event offering education, information resources, a plant walk, seed exchange, and a photo contest designed to inspire community interest in a “Pollinator Pathway” project citywide. The event is sponsored by the City of Warwick Wildlife & Conservation Commission; no registration is needed.

“We encourage everyone to attend this Pollinator Expo,” said Commission Chairwoman Anne Holst, who is also the proprietor of the museum which is hosting the effort. “People can learn the basics of working with their own gardens and yards to provide healthy environments for bees, butterflies, and birds, all creatures we need to ensure flowers, fruits and vegetables can grow abundantly.”

The premise for the event is based on the “Pollinator Pathway” project (<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>), an effort of a national organization focused on the implementation of greenway swatches that connect communities and states and allow pollinator species to gather food, find shelter and breeding locales, and migrate. The Pollinator Expo will feature:

- **Two lectures or presentations** on aspects of planning, designing, implementing, or supporting pollinator gardens. A presentation, for example may feature pollinator gardening advice from an expert organization, while another may focus on a species, such as native bees.
- **Information tables** and resources: Participating organizations will include government and non-government organizations providing pollinator garden and species information. Organizations interested in a table (tables and chairs provided) can contact Sue Kennedy at 401-450-2666 or skennedy1168@gmail.com to participate. Joining the Commission as exhibitors: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Audubon Society of Rhode Island, and the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener Program.
- **Community Photo Contest:** All are encouraged to enter 5-inch by 7-inch photos of their favorite **pollinator species either with or on plants** (include your name, address, contact information, species' names and photo location) and mail (postmarked by Sept. 16.) or email them (also by Sept. 16) to the commission via Susan Cabeceiras, Planning Department, 65 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI 02886 or Susan.W.Cabeceiras@WarwickRI.gov. Prize ribbons will be awarded by the Commission for 1st through 3rd places in the categories of Youth (age 14 and under) and Adult, and event attendees can vote on-site for a People's Choice award winner. Winning entries will be announced after the expo and displayed at the City Hall Annex/Sawtooth Building, Apponaug.

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- **Plant Walk:** Grab a map at the event and take a self-guided tour of pollinator plants and other key natural sites at the museum.
- **Seed Exchange:** Bring some seeds and swap them for others!

The Commission has already embarked on a series of activities to create or support pollinator pathway gardening in the City, including efforts to engage youth and public and community organizations in work expected to take place at City Park, Brayton Cemetery, and several Warwick schools.

Interested in the Pollinator Expo? Contact the Commission or Sue Kennedy at 401-450-2666 or skennedy1168@gmail.com. Visit the City of Warwick Conservation & Wildlife Commission at its Facebook page at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/Warwick-Wildlife-and-Conservation-Commission-101527235488612/> for information about the commission and its activities.

The Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission was established by the City in 1974 to protect watershed resources, preserve and enhance natural aesthetics and wildlife habitat, and promote an ecological balance between preservation of natural landscape and development of manmade environments.