

Clinton Joins Pollinator Pathway



By Marybeth Cale

Many thanks to Maya Goer-Palenzuela, who shared the following news with us this month. She says:

"What do residents of the Town of Clinton talk about when they meet their neighbors? Often, it's the amazing birds, bees and butterflies they have spotted in their yards, along the roads, and in the woods and fields. What isn't so visible is how these pollinators rely for their survival on particular plants within a predictable range. Seemingly isolated human activities—replacing a meadow with a lawn, cutting down trees for a view, raking up autumn leaves—can jeopardize basic pollinator survival. In fact, pollinator habitats are increasingly threatened all across the country."



AMSONIA ILLINOENSIS, CLOVER & COREOPSIS VERTICILLATA AT FRANCIS J. MARK PARK, COURTESY OF MAYA GOER-PALENZUELA

Fortunately, she said that "there is a lot that residents can do to prevent and reverse the loss of pollinators. That's why Clinton has joined Pollinator Pathways, a regional grassroots project to educate people and encourage the creation of 'pathways' for pollinators in the town."

Maya added that unlike more suburban areas, Clinton still has many naturally-growing sources of pollinator success, and that the Clinton Town Board unanimously approved pollinator-friendly plantings on town property, with plans underway to transform some areas around Town Hall and in Francis J. Mark Park on Clinton Hollow Road.

"This is a big step for our town in working towards nationwide conservation and empowering the residents to nurture our indigenous flora and fauna which are really struggling at a catastrophic level," she said. Maya is a member of the Conservation Advisory Council and is spearheading the effort. "The choices each of us make can make a real difference."

To learn more about how to make any property pollinator-friendly, go to pollinator-pathway.org. ■



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