

MONROE COUNTY POLLINATOR PROGRAM AT KIMBALL PARK

Clarkson is one of three sites in Monroe County participating in this program.

The continuing decline of pollinator species is not just limited to the monarch butterfly or the honey bee, but extends to other invertebrates as well. Butterflies, bees, wasps and flies are all classified as invertebrates and are a major part of the food web. Native pollinators have been identified as being an intricate part of agriculture in helping to produce fruit and vegetables. These creatures help to ensure that our apples, cherries, squash and pumpkins remain in high production. However, protection of these declining species hinges on public awareness and education, as well as habitat protection and creation.

Edge of field habitat is usually the most effective means of increasing the number of pollinator species as well as providing easy access for pollination of crops. Restoration of hedgerows and soft edges near hedgerows are perfect places to establish pollinator habitat. However, habitat for agricultural production does not always have to happen in or around the field, providing habitat in any locale can serve as an oasis for reduced pollinator populations. By providing places in parks, public accessible land and other open spaces, will help strengthen and enhance pollinator habitat. In turn, that provides a strong ecological base and will eventually help to develop a natural habitat in and around agricultural production; which will lead to measurable impacts on New York agriculture and biodiversity.

