Presentation of Concept Plan for the Pollinator Pathway that will replace the pine trees that have been removed by the Town Hall

Friday February 20, 2026
Senior Center
6:00 pm

The Bicentennial Arboretum Commission is hosting landscape architect, Lisa Turoczi, from Earth Tones Native plant nursery, to explain the ***Concept Plan*** for the extended Arboretum site by the Town Hall where the pine trees were cut down.

The purpose of the presentation is to provide an explanation of the plan and provide an opportunity to comment and ask questions . A copy of the plan is available at the *Town Hall*, the *Library*, and will also be posted on the *Town Website* and on the *Rec Commission's Facebook page*.

A Concept Plan is not a final plan. The plan addresses the key elements necessary for an integrated, sustainable native plant pollinator pathway: Continuous blooms, essential native trees and shrubs, nesting and habitat sites, and structure to promote pollinator attraction. The plan lists the plants that have been selected to provide for a variety of integrated ecosystems, including wet and dry meadows but does not specifically identify their location on the plan. The final plan design will do that. An additional goal of creating our plan is that it is rich in aesthetics to encourage the community to visit.

Prior to the presentation questions and comments can be sent to Chaplintrees@chaplinct.org or left on the *Pollinator Pathway Comment Sheet* beside the plan at the Town Hall or at the Library. Comments and questions will also be accepted at the presentation.

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission
Dave Stone
Leslie Ricklin
Helen Weingart

Key Components of a Northeast Pollinator Ecosystem

An integrated, sustainable pollinator garden in the Northeast requires a pesticide-free, diverse habitat providing consistent, diverse resources from early spring to late fall. Key elements include planting native perennials, shrubs, and trees to provide nectar and pollen, leaving space for nesting (bare soil, hollow stems), and planting in swathes to create foraging corridors. Some examples are as follows:
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- **Continuous Blooms (Early Spring - Late Fall):**
  - **Early Spring:** Red maple, Willow, Serviceberry.
  - **Mid-Summer:** Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, Bergamot (*Monarda*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), Joe-pye Weed, Yarrow (*Achillea*).
  - **Late Summer/Fall:** Goldenrod, Asters, Stonecrop (*Sedum*).
- **Keystone Native Tree and Shrub Species:** Plants that support the highest number of caterpillars species to bolster the entire local food web. Oak, Black Locust, Tupelo, Basswood, and shrubs like Inkberry provide, significant, early-season resources.
- **Nesting & Habitat Sites: Flowers only provide food; pollinators need places to live.**
  - **Ground Nests:** Leave areas of bare soil or sparse vegetation for ground-nesting bees (roughly 70% of native bees).
  - **Stem Nests:** Leave hollow stems and rotting wood for cavity-nesting bees.
  - **Shelter:** Incorporate native grasses like Little Bluestem for larval host material and overwintering habitats.
  - **Leaf Litter:** Allow for a “messy corner with leaves and woody debris to provide essential insulation for overwintering caterpillars and bumble queens.
- **Structure:** Plant in clumps of at least 3-5 of each species for better pollinator attraction.
- **Creating Corridors: Potential Future Goal**
  - Connect with neighbors to create "pollinator pathways," creating continuous, safe, pesticide-free zones in residential yards, parks, and schools.
  - Minimize pesticide and insecticide use, particularly neonicotinoids.

Source**: Xerces Society:** Additional information is located at **https://xerces.org**