

# Pollinator Corridors Provide Diversity



glencoe gardens



Do you have a great outdoor space? We would love to see it! Email us at [theglencoecompass@n2pub.com](mailto:theglencoecompass@n2pub.com)

Plummeting populations of insects, pollinators and birds have been widely publicized recently. This trend, however, began years ago following subtle impacts of climate change, increased use of pesticides, habitat loss due to agricultural practices and invasive species.

Studies estimate insects, bees and other pollinators are essential for the production of 30 percent of fruits and vegetables. Insects sustain flowering plants and are a vital food source for birds, fish and other wildlife. Expansion of supportive and connected ecosystems is key to reversing declining insect and pollinator populations and to protecting food production.

After 10 years of efforts by Friends of the Green Bay Trail, the trail's restored portions provide a healthier habitat and a supportive pollinator corridor. A leisurely stroll or ride along the trail offers opportunities to observe diverse populations of insects, butterflies and birds attracted to its thousands of host native plants.

The Friends encourage area residents to help extend the trail's habitat corridor to include their home yards, flower boxes and container gardens. All of these can become mini nature preserves with the use of pollinators and bird-friendly landscape practices. A tiny patch of lawn converted to native plants can be hugely valuable as a resting or nesting site.

- **Remove invasives** such as buckthorn and garlic mustard.

- **Purchase native plants**—Verify your

purchases are not cultivars, as these are often treated with neonicotinoids that act as neurotoxins in insects and adversely impact the pollinators and wildlife that rely on them as a food source. Plant selection apps include:

- [nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants](http://nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants)
- [Audubon.org/nativeplants](http://Audubon.org/nativeplants)
- [extension.illinois.edu/search/node?keys=native%20plants](http://extension.illinois.edu/search/node?keys=native%20plants)

- **Provide water, shelter and nesting sites.**
- **Reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers.**

Plant milkweed and other native plants that provide nectar. Enjoy the greater variety of pollinators and birds attracted to your garden. Learn to identify the newcomers. Useful apps and websites include:

- MerlinBirdID from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- eBird
- Bugguide.net
- USDA Resources Conservation Service-Illinois

Visit the Green Bay Trail. Enjoy daily discoveries and observe its seasonal changes. More information is available at [www.gbtrail.org](http://www.gbtrail.org).



Better. Healthier Landscapes.  
Better. Healthier Communities.



ILT  
**VIGNOCCHI**  
Landscape Architects & Contractors

[www.iltvignocchi.com](http://www.iltvignocchi.com)  
847-487-5200  
[info@iltvignocchi.com](mailto:info@iltvignocchi.com)