

Pollinator Boxes At Davidson's Mill Pond Park



Pollinator box

Helping to Protect our Native Pollinators

Visitors to Davidson's Mill Pond Park may observe several odd structures in the fields and meadows. In July 2015, as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project, Patrick Fitzgerald built and installed a series of Pollinator Boxes and Pollinator Hotels to benefit native plants and their pollinating insects—which are in decline.

Pollination is the transfer of pollen between plants that allows for fertilization and the production of seeds.

In Middlesex County, typical pollinators include butterflies and bees. Over 75% of all flowering plants depend on animals to pollinate them—including many of the fruits and vegetables that we eat! Non-native honeybees have historically done much of this pollination. But the U.S. has lost over 50% of its honeybee colonies—due to disease, pesticides and habitat degradation.

One important way we can improve the success of our native pollinators is by providing nesting places where they can lay eggs or hibernate in the winter. As you visit Davidson's Mill Pond Park, look for the pollinator boxes and hotels shown in these photos. These structures allow pollinators to live and thrive in the area and help their population to grow.

DO NOT APPROACH OR DISTURB THE POLLINATOR BOXES

Information by Patrick Fitzgerald and adapted from the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge



Pollinator hotel