In our highly urbanized world nature tends to take the back seat when it comes to landscape design. In general, urbanized landscape plans include some tree species, some different types of shrubs maybe some small areas set aside for a few flowers, and lots and lots of grass; all of which are mostly chosen for aesthetic value instead of the actual value held for wildlife and the overall ecosystem. **To help increase the ecological value of urbanized landscapes**, a concept derived from a woman named Sarah Bergmann from Seattle, Washington called the Pollinator Pathway can be implemented.

A Pollinator Pathway is a series of small native gardens that are strategically placed throughout an urbanized area that provide habitat for pollinators. The concept is to plant native species in these gardens to attract and provide pollinators with distinct pathways in an otherwise scattered or barren landscape.

The pilot Pollinator Pathway created by Bergmann connects the gardens of the University of Seattle campus to Nora's Woods, a small wooden area that hosts a variety of native plant species. The pathway is a mile long by 12 foot wide, and consists of 20 pollinator friendly gardens that provide a vegetative path in an otherwise solely urbanized landscape.

Not only do Pollinator Pathways provide habitat for pollinators, but they also help support the wildlife that depends on these pollinators for food and enhances the beauty f urbanscapes. Many invasive plants were once desired cultivators, choosing native species helps to protect natural plant communities by reducing the chances of an exotic plant species spreading from your garden to later become a invasive. **Furthermore, introducing a more diverse and native vegetative population to an urbanized landscape helps reduce the habitat available for invasive species.** Invasive species tend to thrive in areas that are lacking competition from native species; therefore, by planting gardens in areas that would otherwise be dominated by a single species of grass, the likelihood of invasive species becoming established is reduced.

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) and the Cornell Cooperative Extension are leading a pollinator pathway project. The main purpose of this project is to encourage gardeners to choose to grow native over exotic plants in their gardens. Collectively, the gardens of participants will create a pollinator pathway throughout our region while also reducing the susceptibility of our landscapes to invasvies.

Participants are encouraged to pledge to grow native pollinator friendly plants in their gardens. There are many native species that support pollinators. For inspiration and convenience, a list of suggested native species has been developed and is available to those who choose to participate.

Anyone who is interested in participating in the Pollinator Pathway Project, please contact:

Megan Pistolese (SLELO PRISM Education/Outreach Coordinator) at: 315-387-3600 X 7724; megan.pistolese@tnc.org
Sue Gwise (Horticulture Educator Cornell Cooperative Extension) at: 315-788-8450 X 243; sjg42@cornell.edu

Provide your name, address, and phone number so we can reach you. Thank you

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT
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