



## OPERATION POLLINATION: POLLINATOR RESOLUTION

*The undersigned recognize the critical importance of pollinator habitat both restored and maintained on public and private lands within the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (Housatonic Heritage). Through collaboration and outreach resulting from this Resolution, a mosaic of pollinator habitat will be created, restored, and maintained to stabilize and/or increase populations of pollinator species throughout this project area.*

**WHEREAS**, Pollinators include butterflies, bees, some birds, bats, and other insects that play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and given the breadth, severity and persistence of pollinator losses, it is critical to expand efforts to take new steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels;

**WHEREAS**, Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollination to reproduce;

**WHEREAS**, For migratory pollinators, such as bats, hummingbirds, and the monarch butterfly, we recognize the importance of identification and protection of nectar corridors;

**WHEREAS**, Honey bee colonies continue to decline in number and production capacity;

**WHEREAS**, Monarch butterfly populations declined to the lowest recorded level in 2013-14, and there is an imminent risk of failed migration;

**WHEREAS**, The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area is suited to serve as a coordinating entity for collaborative efforts between multiple organizations;

**THEREFORE**, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively and strategically protect and enhance pollinator species and their habitat on public and private lands throughout and near the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, located in the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts, by acting to:

- ❖ **Increase and improve Pollinator Habitat:** Identify existing pockets of pollinator habitat, and then develop a network of habitat on public and private lands to create a nectar corridor for migratory and non-migratory pollinator species.
- ❖ **Public-Private Partnerships:** Develop strategic planning and partnerships to improve or create habitat for pollinators as well as provide educational opportunities within the scope of the resolution. Collaborate with partners already invested in pollinator habitat protection and restoration.
- ❖ **Education:** Encourage voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes. This may include, but is not limited to, planting pollinator gardens, creating meadows and diversified lawns, building bee blocks, and avoiding or limiting pesticide use as well as reducing mowing.
- ❖ **Research:** Develop and/or promote citizen science opportunities for improving pollinator habitat on residential properties and at public centers.

*To support the goals of this **Pollinator Resolution**, signatories to the accompanying **Pollinator Pledge** commit to protect, preserve, create or restore pollinator habitat on lands under their management.*