

# Pollinator Garden Route

Building on the steadfast commitment to the environment and the preservation of the natural lands along the Niagara River Corridor, Niagara Parks established 12 pollinator gardens along the Niagara Parkway to provide habitat for pollinator species from bumblebees to hummingbirds, who play a crucial role in maintaining our environment. The gardens are connected through both the scenic Niagara Parkway and the Niagara River Recreation Trail, creating the Pollinator Garden Route which can be enjoyed by bicycle, foot, or automobile. Additional pollinator gardens will gradually be added to the Pollinator Garden Route as well.



Niagara Parks' pollinator gardens range from formal manicured gardens to natural habitats, all providing support for a wide range of pollinating species and many of which are considered at risk. Approximately 90% of the Earth's flowering plants depend on pollinators to reproduce, representing the crucial role pollinating species play in maintaining our environment.

In total, Niagara Parks initially planted over 15,000 locally sourced, native wildflowers and shrubs as part of this project, developed in collaboration with the provincial government's Ontario150 funding program.

Fourteen interpretive, bilingual signs identify each site, containing information about a certain type of pollinator, as well as references to various Indigenous myths, which offer wisdom concerning our connection to animals and our environment. The content of the signage was inspired by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Iroquois), and the Anishnaabe (Algonquin), all of whom inhabited this area throughout history, and their spiritual connection with the animal kingdom. Niagara Parks worked with local Indigenous artists and writers to develop a collection of animal legends and artwork that feature some of Ontario's native species.

