



CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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For Immediate Release –

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Harrisonburg's Pollinator Program becomes a national example

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg now plays a key role in helping other communities build momentum behind their own community pollinator program efforts.

Experiences and information gleaned from the Harrisonburg Pollinator Program is being included in the newly released *Parks and Pollinators: Taking Action and Advancing Sustainability* resource from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The efforts of Harrisonburg Public Works to protect pollinators while advancing key sustainability plans and practices have proven to strengthen the Harrisonburg community - building awareness of this work requires collaboration among City departments, local organizations, educational institutions, and community members.

Harrisonburg's Pollinator Program started gaining momentum in 2018 when the City began planting pollinator spaces, leading to the establishment of a pollinator corridor. Pollinator spaces began to take shape from smaller manicured garden beds to larger meadows, to street medians that help decrease mowing costs and safety concerns. The idea for the program was prompted by NRPA's Three Pillars – Health and Wellness, Equity at the Center, and Conservation.

The NRPA publication highlights various Harrisonburg Pollinator Program efforts including:

- Spotswood Elementary's "outdoor classroom" that includes pollinator habitat
- Harrisonburg High School's participation in the pollinator corridor
- "Harrisonburg, Virginia Develops a Pollinator Corridor" article
- Photos representing various program outreach and participation with local students
- Harrisonburg's participation in NRPA's annual BioBlitz program partnering with local schools
- "Building Resiliency in Harrisonburg, Virginia" Case Study

Parks and Pollinators: Taking Action and Advancing Sustainability



(Above) NRPA's recently released Pollinator Program Resource includes experiences from Harrisonburg.

“We are honored Harrisonburg’s Pollinator Program is included in this nationally utilized resource,” Public Works Green Space Manager (and contributing author of the NRPA publication) Jeremy Harold said. “How passionate the Harrisonburg community is about participating in pollinator program efforts is truly what has built the program to be what it is today.”

More information about the Harrisonburg Pollinator Program may be found online at www.harrisonburgva.gov/pollinators, with gardens being found at many places in the community – including Westover, Hillandale and Purcell parks. Public Works looks forward to a ribbon-cutting celebration early spring for newly installed greenhouses that will allow for expansion of the program.



(Above) The pollinator habitat at Spotswood Elementary provides a new outdoor classroom for students.

For volunteering and program participation information, please email Jeremy.Harold@harrisonburgva.gov.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

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