

MDOT SHA POLLINATOR HABITAT PLAN

INTRODUCTION. The Pollinator Habitat Plan of the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) was developed in response to the 2016 Pollinator Protection Act of the Maryland General Assembly, § 2-1801 Pollinator Habitat Plan, the 2017 amendments to the Act, and in consultation with the Pollinator Protection Plan of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS. MDOT SHA recognizes that pollinators are essential to our well-being, and that they are an important part of healthy ecosystems. An estimated 85% of the world's flowering plants depend on animal pollinators for their pollination and successful fruit development. These crops produce our fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and livestock forage.

Wild pollinators, including bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds, as well as managed hives of honeybees are experiencing declines in population due to a loss of habitat, the spread of disease, and various other factors.



DESIGNATED SITES. MDOT SHA's Pollinator Habitat Plan includes the creation of designated pollinator habitat sites in locations such as welcome centers, rest areas, select office complexes and similar facilities. These sites are being created throughout the state and include a wide variety of pollen and nectar sources. These sites will be inclusive of interpretive signs with educational guidance about the specific plantings installed at each site.

MANAGEMENT. Designated pollinator habitat sites will be managed to provide attractive and diverse plantings that support pollinator habitat.

MDOT SHA will maintain turfgrass and meadows in conformance with applicable laws and as needed to support adjacent activities.

No pesticides containing neonicotinoids or labeled as toxic to bees, or seeds or plants treated with neonicotinoids will be used at MDOT SHA designated Pollinator Habitat Plan sites.



GOAL. The goal of the MDOT SHA Pollinator Habitat Plan is to enhance habitat areas for bees, butterflies, and other threatened and dwindling pollinators by:

1. Providing seasonal flowers that provide nectar, pollen, and nesting sites for pollinators.
2. Providing refuge areas with plants and seeds not treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.
3. Providing educational signage about pollinators and their habitat.

FOR MORE INFO. Go to <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=344> or contact the Office of Environmental Design – Landscape Programs Division - Mr. Tim Madden at 410-545-8604.