



Town of  
**OXFORD**  
MASSACHUSETTS

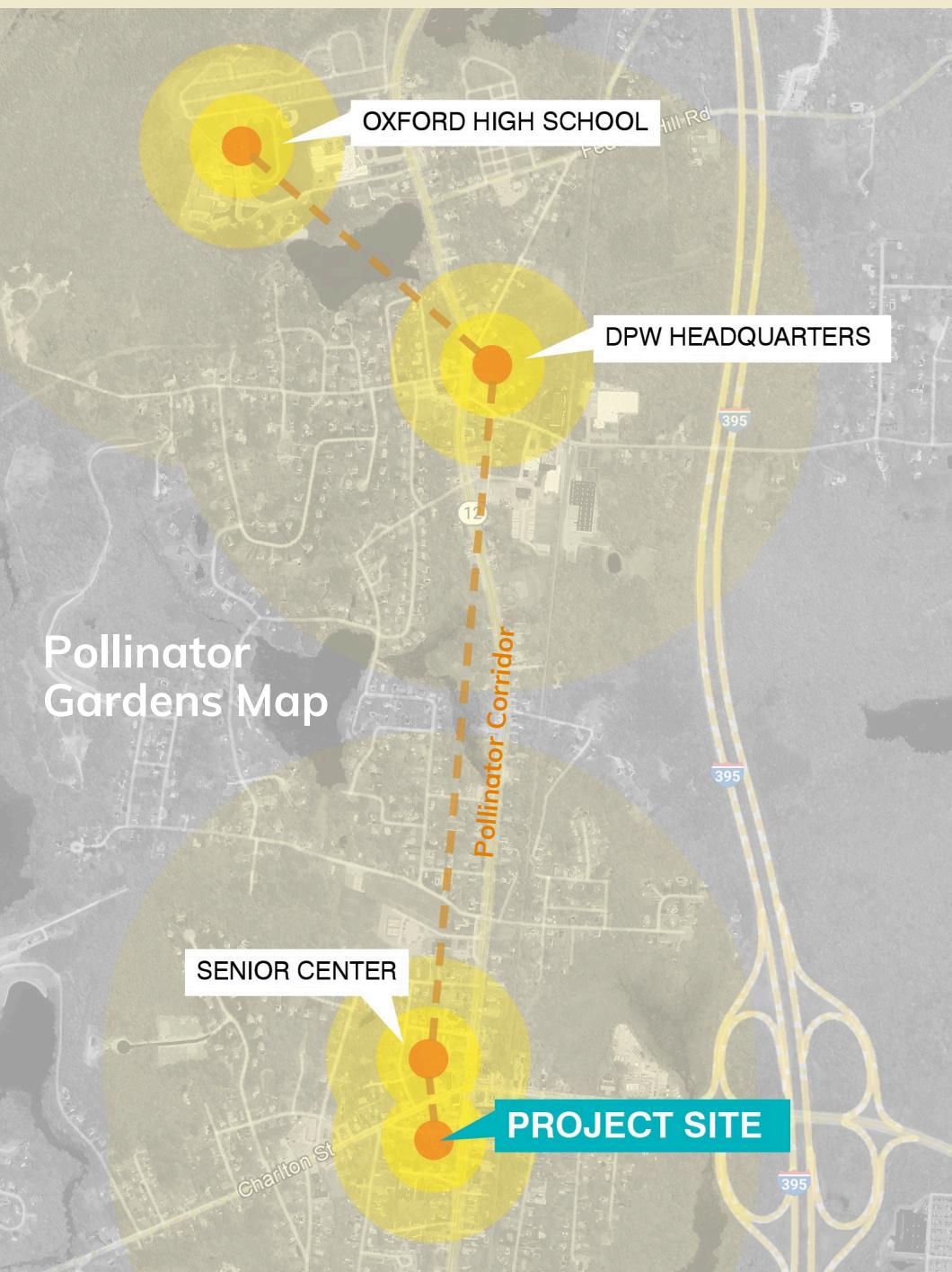
Weston & Sampson<sup>SM</sup>



**MVP**  
Municipal Vulnerability  
Preparedness

# Petroleum to Pollinators

## Oxford, Massachusetts



## WHO ARE THE POLLINATORS AND WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Pollinators help plants grow by moving pollen from flower to flower. This allows plants to produce fruits, vegetables, and seeds that people and wildlife rely on for food.

**Bees, Butterflies, Moths, Hummingbirds, Bats, Beetles, Flies, and other small animals** are some of the common pollinators that we see often!

### Pollinators Support Nature –

More than 75% of flowering plants need pollinators to grow. This helps maintain biodiversity, keeping ecosystems healthy and full of life.

### Pollinators Protect the Environment –

By helping plants grow, pollinators improve soil, clean the air, and provide homes for wildlife.

### Pollinators Help Feed Us –

1 out of every 3 bites of food we eat depends on pollinators! They help grow foods like tomatoes, carrots, and apples, supporting a diverse and nutritious diet.



## WHAT IS OXFORD CURRENTLY DOING TO HELP POLLINATORS?

The map on the cover page shows existing pollinator gardens in Oxford and how they form a pollinator corridor.

Our new project, which is located at [3 Barton Street](#), would add to this existing pollinator network.

**The Petroleum to Pollinator project** is designing a pollinator park that could potentially transform the former fueling station and town maintenance facility office site.

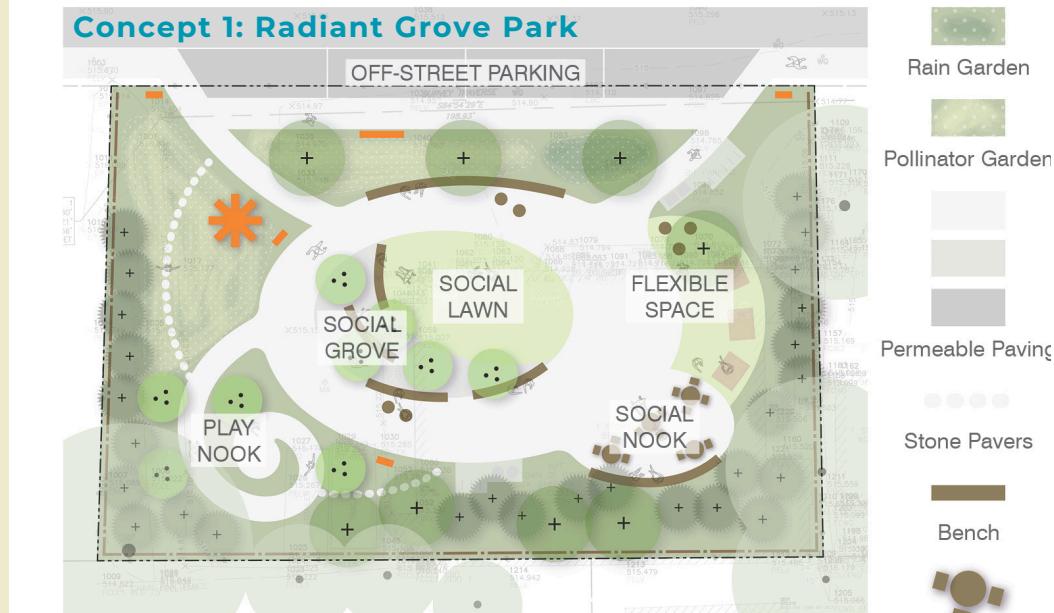
The proposed pollinator park will feature nature-based solutions for stormwater management and heat mitigation, provide community gathering spaces, and create pollinator habitat.

  
**NOW THAT THE BUILDING HAS BEEN REMOVED,  
WHAT COULD THIS SITE LOOK LIKE ?**

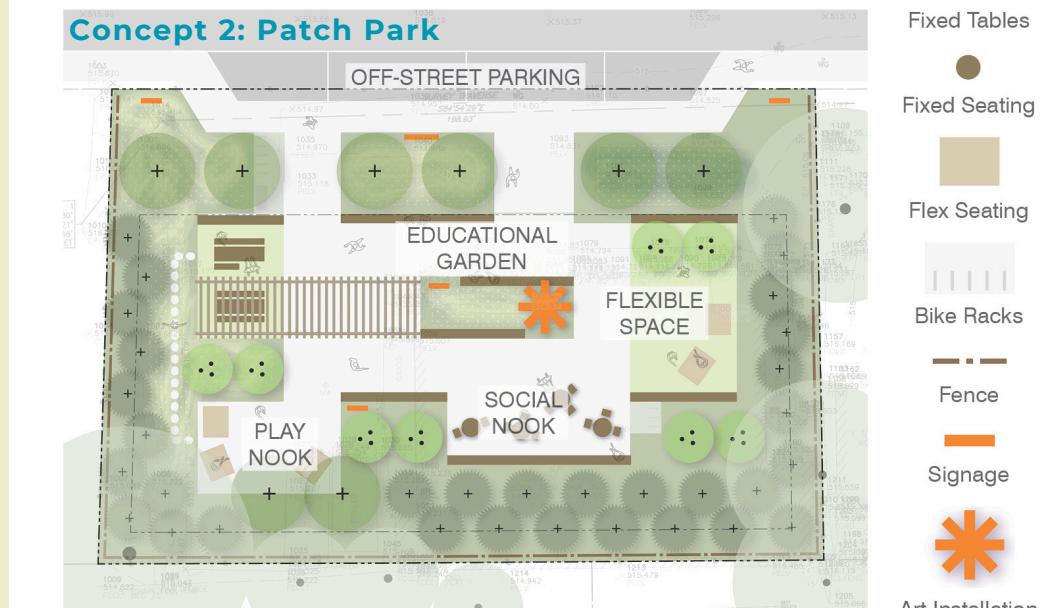


## PARK DESIGN CONCEPTS

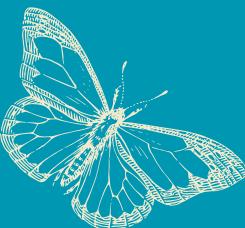
### Concept 1: Radiant Grove Park



### Concept 2: Patch Park



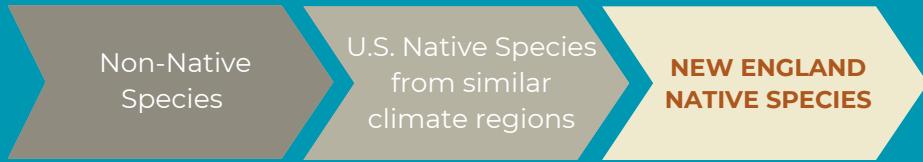
# WHAT ARE POLLINATOR GARDENS AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS?



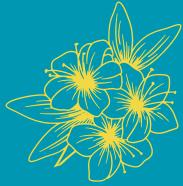
## Pollinator Gardens

are specially designed green spaces that provide essential habitat for pollinators especially in urban environments. By planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees, these gardens **offer food, shelter, and nesting sites to support pollinators.**

### Prioritization for Pollinator Garden Plant Selection:



**Native plant species** are the most reliably beneficial for pollinators and should be prioritized.



**Pollinator gardens & nature-based solutions not only support wildlife but also contribute to a healthier urban environment by improving biodiversity, enhancing green space, & connecting people with nature!**

## Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

use natural processes to **protect, restore, and manage** ecosystems. They help manage stormwater, keep water and air clean, improve public health, and reduce natural disaster risks.

### Common Nature-Based Solutions:



Rain Gardens or Bioswales

Permeable Paving

Increased Tree Canopy



## How Pollinator Gardens & Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Address Urban Challenges:

- **Stormwater & Flooding** →
  - Use NBS such as rain gardens and bioswales to absorb runoff, reduce flooding, and prevent pollution from reaching waterways.
- **Habitat Loss & Fragmentation** →
  - Create pollinator corridors by linking green spaces.
- **Invasive & Non-Native Species** →
  - Increase biodiversity by planting native species that support local wildlife.
- **Urban Heat** →
  - Plants provide shade and cool surfaces by absorbing sunlight and releasing moisture in the air.
- **Artificial Light Pollution** →
  - Reduce outdoor lighting to help nocturnal pollinators.
- **Pesticide Use** →
  - Limit pesticides and use organic fertilizers to protect pollinators.
- **Landscape Maintenance** →
  - Leave the leaves! Fallen leaves provide shelter for overwintering pollinators.

## STEPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN POLLINATOR GARDEN PATCH!

You can support the pollinator network by planting native species at your yard, school, or anywhere else!

01

### IDEAL LOCATION:

☀️ Sunny area that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight per day is ideal. Otherwise, choose shade tolerant plants.

🌱 Any garden size can help support pollinators! The larger the area the more pollinator diversity you will see.

💧 Consider Water & Soil – good drainage, access to water, and healthy soil is important. Improve compacted soil with compost if needed.

02

### SUITABLE PLANTS:

🌿 Choose Native Plants because they provide the best food for local pollinators. Check out native plant lists and use a native seed mix to get started!

🌸 Select plants that bloom at different times of the year to provide pollinators with food from spring to fall.

🌿 Consider factors like sunlight, soil type, moisture levels, and space availability when choosing plants.

03

### CAREFULLY PLANT:

🌱 Arrange plants in clusters to help pollinators find them easily. Keep enough space between plants so they can grow properly.

🌿 Combine tall, medium, and low-growing plants to create a diverse habitat.

🌱 Remove grass or weeds before planting. Dig holes twice as wide as each plant's pot to help roots establish. Add a thin layer of mulch (less than 1 inch) to retain moisture while keeping mulch away from stems.

04

### PROPERLY MAINTAIN:

💧 Water well and keep soil moist during the first two weeks after planting, then water as needed when plants droop.

🌿 Avoid Chemicals. Skip pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, which can harm pollinators.

🌿 Let It Grow Naturally – Allow plants to bloom fully, leave seed heads in the fall for birds, and provide habitat year-round.

*Information adapted from the Pollinator Partnership*

## LINKS AND RESOURCES

### Project Website:

<https://oxfordma.us/848/Massachusetts-Municipal-Vulnerability-Pr>



### Oxford Pollinator Challenge:

<https://oxfordma.us/777/Pollinator-Habitat-Community-Challenge>



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