

**RESOLUTION NO. 243-2021, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE  
TO CREATE A POLLINATOR PATHWAY ACROSS SUFFOLK  
COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, pollination is a mutually beneficial interaction between plants and pollinators that is important to sustaining a healthy ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, most pollinators are insects, including bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies, and moths, as well as certain small animals like hummingbirds and nectar-feeding bat species; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of roadways and other green spaces without vegetation is a problem for pollinators because it interrupts their natural habitats, making it more difficult to survive; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence and proliferation of pollinators help to maintain important crops and plants that Suffolk County farmers rely on and that are necessary to maintain a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, planting specific plants and flowers along appropriate portions of roadways and in open green spaces throughout the County would be beneficial to supporting the presence of pollinators in the surrounding area; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Transportation has already developed a comprehensive technical manual for maintaining roadsides for pollinators and piloted a program to limit and delay mowing along a section of I-390 in Livingston County to provide a habitat for pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, the County should establish a task force to develop a plan to support pollinator species along roadways and in open green spaces in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem in Suffolk County which the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation will jointly implement in the coming years; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the Pollinator Pathway Task Force (“Task Force”) is hereby established to develop a plan to be implemented jointly by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation which would encourage pollinator migration to Suffolk County through the planting of indigenous plants along roadsides and in open green spaces on County property; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, the Task Force shall consist of the following ten (10) members:

- 1) The Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
- 2) The County Executive, or his or her designee;

- 3) The Chair of the Environmental, Parks, and Agriculture Committee of the County Legislature, or his or her designee;
- 4) The Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, or his or her designee;
- 5) The Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, or his or her designee;
- 6) A representative from the Cornell Cooperative Extension;
- 7) A representative from the Long Island Native Plant Initiative;
- 8) A representative from the Audubon Society, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
- 9) A representative from The Nature Conservancy; and
- 10) A representative from Vision Long Island, Inc.

and be it further

**3rd** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the oaths of office of all members have been filed for the purpose of organization, and the selection of a chairperson, vice chairperson and a secretary; and be it further

**4th** **RESOLVED**, that members of said Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities; and be it further

**5th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall hold regular meetings, keep a record of all its proceedings, and determine the rules of its own proceedings with special meetings to be called by the chairperson upon his or her own initiative or upon receipt of a written request therefor signed by at least three (3) members of the Task Force. Written notice of the time and place of such special meetings shall be given by the secretary to each member at least four (4) days before the date fixed by the notice for such special meeting; and be it further

**6th** **RESOLVED**, that six (6) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

**7th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may conduct such informal hearings and meetings at any place or places within the County of Suffolk for the purpose of obtaining necessary information or other data to assist it in the proper performance of its duties and functions as it deems necessary; and be it further

**8th** **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force may delegate to any member of the Task Force the power and authority to conduct such hearings and meetings; and be it further

**9th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall cooperate with the Legislative Committees of the County Legislature and make available to each Committee's use, upon request, any records and other data it may accumulate or obtain; and be it further

**10th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall be charged with developing a plan to aid in growing the pollinator population in Suffolk County through the planting of native plant species along roadsides and throughout green spaces on County-owned properties. The Task Force shall examine and evaluate the economic and environmental impacts of implementing such a plan. The plan shall propose partnerships with not-for-profit organizations which would be responsible for aiding in the maintenance of planted areas. The Task Force shall also evaluate the issues facing the County in implementing a pollinator proliferation plan and shall recommend actions that the County can take to ameliorate those issues; and be it further

**11th**           **RESOLVED**, that the Task Force shall issue a written report containing the preliminary plan, environmental and economic determinations, and all recommendations, including further policy actions to be taken, which shall be provided to the County Executive, Clerk of the Legislature, and each member of the County Legislature within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

**12th**           **RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately; and be it further

**13th**           **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: April 20, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: April 23, 2021

**RESOLUTION NO. 459-2021, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 243-2021 TO ADD MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 243-2021 established the Pollinator Pathway Task Force (“Task Force”) to develop a plan to support pollinator species along roadways and in open green spaces in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem in Suffolk County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force would benefit from the insight of members of local community gardening clubs, a representative from Save the Great South Bay, a representative from the Suffolk County Town Supervisors Association, and a representative from the Suffolk County Village Officials Association; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 243-2021 should be amended to include these six additional members; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 243-2021 is hereby amended as follows:

**2nd RESOLVED**, the Task Force shall consist of the following [ten (10)] twenty-one (21) members:

\* \* \* \*

- 9) A representative from The Nature Conservancy; [and]
- 10) A representative from Vision Long Island, Inc.;
- 11) Three members of local gardening clubs in Suffolk County, to be appointed by the Legislature;
- 12) A representative from Save the Great South Bay;
- 13) A representative from the Suffolk County Town Supervisors Association;
- 14) A representative from the Suffolk County Village Officials Association;
- 15) A botanist or horticulturist, to be appointed by the Legislature;
- 16) A representative from the Peconic Land Trust;
- 17) A representative from the Peconic Estuary Partnership;
- 18) A representative from the Group for the East End, Inc.; and
- 19) A representative from New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation;

and be it further

**2nd** **RESOLVED**, that the 6th **RESOLVED** clause of Resolution No. 243-2021 is hereby amended as follows:

**6th** **RESOLVED**, that [six (6)] eleven (11) members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum to transact the business of the Task Force at both regular and special meetings; and be it further

and be it further

**3rd** **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: June 8, 2021

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: June 16, 2021