

The Bumble Bee Project of the MetroWest Conservation Alliance

Ambassador Volunteer Job Description

The mission of the Bumble Bee Project (BBP) is to conserve native pollination systems by providing the specific habitat requirements and reducing threats for at-risk pollinators in the 36 communities of the MetroWest Conservation Alliance (MCA). Our methodology follows the research of Dr. Robert J. Gegear who studies pollination systems in the watershed. Dr. Gegear is a biology professor at UMass Dartmouth and founder of The Beecology Project, a citizen science app designed to digitally collect and submit ecological data on native pollinator species and the flowering plants they visit (i.e., the pollination system). Our goal is to have at least one Public Display Pollination Preservation Garden in each of the 36 MCA communities.

Ambassadors are part of a network of volunteers who are working to increase biodiversity and land resiliency in the MCA region by restoring and conserving native pollination systems. Ambassadors are supported by the members of the BBP.

Objective:

To coordinate the establishment of a Public Display Pollination Preservation Garden to provide model habitat, raise awareness and educate about at-risk pollination systems in one's own community.

Responsibilities:

- Identify a site where a Public Display Pollination Preservation Garden can be installed, such as at a school, library, town office, place of worship, business or on conservation land.
- Recruit additional volunteers, as needed, to assist with the planning, installation and maintenance of the garden.
- Use plants from Dr. Gegear's recommended plant list and follow guidelines that target at-risk pollination systems provided by the BBP.
- Use the Pollination Preservation Garden Toolkit created and provided by the BBP.
- Use the Beecology App to submit ecological data on pollination systems.
- Distribute BBP information, including plant lists, guidelines, and toolkits that target at-risk pollination systems.

Requirements:

- Complete relevant training, including watching or attending a talk by Dr. Gegear.
- Possess a willingness to learn about local, native pollination systems.
- Knowledge about gardening is helpful, but not required.

- Attend bi-monthly Ambassador meetings.
- Attend ongoing training and talks provided by the BBP.
- Provide tours of the garden to the public.
- Serve as a primary contact in your community on behalf of the BBP.