

Darien Receives \$92,000 Grant to Add 16 Acres to the Town's Pollinator Pathway

By Deepika Saksena and Juliet Cain



A few weeks ago, the Town of Darien received a \$92,000 State grant to add Highland Farm, a property acquired by the Town from Ox Ridge Hunt Club in 2017, to Darien's Pollinator Pathway. This addition of more than 16 acres to the Pollinator Pathway will comprise a meadow as well as plantings of several other native, pollinator friendly trees, shrubs and perennials planted around an ADA accessible walking path and along the contours of the property.

The Town consulted with the Darien Pollinator Pathway for this project and, as a result of their advocacy for pesticide-free playing fields in Darien, the Town has agreed that the entire property, including its playing fields, will be maintained without the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Darien is one of 94 Connecticut Towns that were awarded grants from the \$11 million in State Funding approved by Gov Ned Lamont through the 2020 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP). For more information on how your town can apply for a STEAP grant, [please click here](#).