



**“THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK”  
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## **Immediate Release**

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## **CITY OF WHITE PLAINS UNVEILS BATTLE HILL POLLINATOR HABITAT**

*Combating Climate Change and  
Providing Crucial Habitat for Bees, Butterflies & Other Pollinators*

**White Plains, NY - October 13, 2023.** Mayor Tom Roach hosted a Ribbon Cutting for the Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat. The City of White Plains has transformed an idle, desolate 1.47-acre municipal open area, across from the Metro- North Train Station into an active, sustainable naturalized area. The Pollinator Habitat is located on Route 119 between Robertson Avenue and Chatterton Avenue. The first of its kind in Westchester County, the City of White Plains continues to execute against an ambitious sustainability agenda that will improve the lives of its residents for years to come.

Creating naturalized areas such as the Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat are exceedingly beneficial to the surrounding communities. The benefits include:

- **climate resiliency:** managing the negative effects of flooding;
- **ecological health:** maintaining a healthy habitat for wildlife;
- **mental health:** providing a respite for residents/visitors who desire a peaceful moment;
- **environmental health:** the area will improve air and water; and
- **general beauty of the area:** significantly enhanced for all of the surrounding residents.

**(More)**

State funding was secured for this project by Assemblymember Burdick, \$250,000; Senator Pete Harckham, \$100,000 and Senator Shelley Mayer, \$38,000.

“The Common Council and I are grateful to Assemblymember Burdick, Senator Pete Harckham and Senator Shelley Mayer for securing state funds for this important project. They continually support the city’s efforts to meet the needs of our residents in meaningful ways,” **said Mayor Tom Roach**. “The rewilding of a former parking lot to create a pollinator habitat in the Battle Hill neighborhood is an extraordinary accomplishment. The Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat now serves as a critical shelter and habitat for moths, butterflies, native bees, fireflies, beetles and hummingbirds and provides a place of respite for our residents. The City will continue to focus on identifying green initiatives and implementing them in an efficient and effective manner.”

The Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat boasts an impressive array of native plants, most notably: redbud, constellation dogwood, paper birch, serviceberry, oakleaf hydrangea, highbush blueberry, blue milkweed, butterfly weed, coneflower, new york aster, and many more. It also includes a porous pathway made from 100% organic material: decomposed granite, limestone and crushed stone, three birdhouses and five benches for peaceful contemplation. Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat is a pollinator-friendly space that keeps our pollinator community diverse, healthy and beautiful for all to appreciate. Furthermore, today, families can enjoy each other’s company, breathe healthy air and share a peaceful moment.

**Assemblymember Chris Burdick said**, "I am so pleased to see the new Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat here in White Plains that Senator Mayer, Senator Harckham and I were able to help fund. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we do all we can to preserve and bolster our honeybee population. We depend so much upon bees for our food and economic stability. And not only will this new habitat be fruitful for our environment, it is also a beautiful and peaceful location for all to enjoy."

**State Senator Pete Harckham said**, “I am proud to have helped secure financial support for the new Pollinator Habitat in White Plains. It’s important for pollinating birds and insects to have a pesticide-free space in which to find food and shelter, especially in urban areas. This habitat, with native plants and other attractive flora, will soon be a destination for birds, bees and butterflies—and a big benefit to us all. Congratulations to the City of White Plains for creating such a worthwhile project!”

**State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said**, “I am so pleased to have been able to secure \$38,000 in funding for the Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat in White Plains. In addition to adding color and beauty to the community, this garden will increase native biodiversity, provide an important sanctuary for bees and local bird species, and will be a wonderful spot for all who visit. Thank you to Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Chris Burdick for also securing funds to help bring the Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat to life.”

Please click on the links below to view photos and video of the City of White Plains Battle Hill Pollinator Habitat.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZBBAcZh5GzMWQ22DzHqRBQj-3RC3fL2q/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZBBAcZh5GzMWQ22DzHqRBQj-3RC3fL2q/view?usp=drive_link)

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