

## For Immediate Release

OTTAWA, ON

June 13, 2026

You are cordially invited to the 3rd annual **Pollinator Appreciation Day (PAD)** at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden on *June 20, 2026, 10 am to 2 pm*. This year's theme:

### ***Start with a tree!***

So many pollinators depend on native trees; for nectar in spring, food for caterpillars in summer, and for protection in winter!

Now more than ever, we want to make people aware, not only of the importance of planting native trees to create and maintain a healthy ecosystem, but also how easy it is to take action. **Just start by planting a native tree!**

This family-friendly event is hosted by Wild Pollinator Partners and includes:

Master Gardeners Ottawa, Ottawa Field Naturalists's Club, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library, City of Ottawa, CAFES Ottawa, Ottawa Stewardship Council, scientists from Ottawa U and the Central Experimental Farm, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, various community groups who have created and maintain pollinator gardens of all kinds, and native plant nurseries with wares and advice for you.

You'll have an opportunity to

- Join the movement to garden for a healthy environment
- Learn from tree experts
- Win a free native tree for your yard. Trees will also be available to purchase
- Speak with scientists and other local experts who study pollinators and their habitats
- Connect with communities that have created, and are supporting, pollinator projects
- Make a caterpillar, paint a mural, and enjoy our guided walks and nature talks.

Increasing urban development, agriculture clearing, and the commercial landscaping industry continue to threaten our vital native pollinating insects and their supporting tree species. In fact, native canopy cover in Southern Ontario has dropped to just 25%—below the 30% minimum recommended by Environment Canada and the 40% Ottawa is aiming for to protect us from extreme weather.

We can and should all take action - it's easy to do. Our collective lives depend on it!

Plant a native tree on your property, volunteer with one of the organizations at the **Pollinator Appreciation Day** event, share your knowledge and awareness with others.

### **Wild Pollinator Partners**

WPP was started by two Fletcher Wildlife Garden volunteers who saw a need to connect the many people and organizations who want to help pollinators. Our aim is to bring together residents, teachers, researchers, community groups, organizations, and others who support pollinators in our region to share information, resources, and experience.

Through our web site and social media, we provide information about our local wild pollinators and why it is so important to protect them. We describe real projects that are aiming to conserve them as models and inspiration for others. As we gather data, we publicize “best practices” for helping various pollinators, providing information about bee boxes, pollinator-friendly practices in your yard or park, and best plants for native pollinators.

Because we’re local, we also hold informal workshops, nature walks, and site visits to demonstration gardens. We exchange information, connect people, and share plants and seeds.

### **Contact**

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<https://wildpollinators-pollinisateurssauvages.ca/activity/pollinator-appreciation-day-2026/>