

Conservation Council of New Brunswick (Tracy Glynn)

Protecting Our Pollinators

One of the most concerning losses to biodiversity today is the continuing decline of insect pollinators. “Protecting Our Pollinators” will target two key areas of habitat loss for native bumblebees: agriculture (in this case blueberry fields) and urban areas.

In New Brunswick, several agricultural crops depend exclusively on insect pollination. Blueberries, which are New Brunswick’s second-largest cash crop after potatoes, are most efficiently pollinated by native bumblebees. We are working with blueberry producers to encourage them to leave ecologically-diverse vegetation strips, large woody debris, and standing snags in their blueberry fields to increase foraging and nesting habitats available to native pollinators. As a member of the Canadian Pollination Initiative, we are working with scientists and the Department of Agriculture to increase the knowledge of the role of native pollinators in wild blueberry production.

We are also working with schools, municipalities and community groups to encourage the planting of pollinator-friendly native plant species in urban areas and the construction of “bee boxes” for bee nests.