

Climate Resiliency Planting in Connecticut

Climate resiliency grants are becoming more available and provide a great way to plant pollinator habitat. The Pollinator Pathway, with headquarters based in CT, received a grant from UConn's Connecticut Institute for Climate Resilience and Adaptation (CIRCA) to plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers along the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) in Norwalk, Connecticut with students interning at Stepping Stones Museum for Children. The habitat restoration plantings took place in August and were planted between a four-lane Highway and the Norwalk River. Not only will this project provide habitat for pollinators, but it will help shade the trail, slow stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and improve air quality and wildlife habitat. During the planting events, student volunteers learned why native plants are key to the survival of local pollinators and other wildlife and how trees help improve the city's climate resiliency.



With 8 students participating over the course of four weeks, the volunteers helped plant three Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), five American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), two American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), eight Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), eight Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*), seven Mountain Witch Alder (*Fothergilla major*) and seven Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) along with wildflower plugs donated by the Highstead Foundation in Redding, CT and Hilltop Hanover Farm in Westchester County, NY.

