

# A starter guide to creating a Butterflyway through your neighbourhood



David  
Suzuki  
Foundation



# If you grow it, they will come

As our communities continue to grow, local butterflies and bees are losing natural spaces to eat, sleep and raise their young. **You can help make your neighbourhood more bee- and butterfly-friendly by joining the Butterflyway Project.**

This guide includes seven steps to begin bringing nature home to your garden.

We recommend that you start small by adding native wildflowers to your garden, yard or balcony. Join forces with friends and neighbours to share seeds and plants. Next, encourage schools, businesses and institutions to add pollinator-friendly plants to their gardens and properties. Stitch this network of pollinator patches together and you've created your own Butterflyway!

For more information about the Butterflyway Project, visit [davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway](http://davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway).



Thanks to our national program partners:



# Seven steps to a Butterflyway

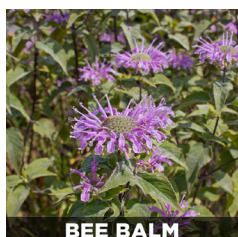
# 1

## Grow native wildflowers

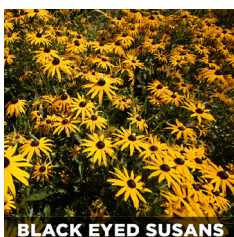
Bringing nature home starts with plants. Grow as many flowering plants as you can fit in your space. Start by visiting a local nursery that specializes in native plants to find hardy species that are native to your region. Native wildflowers are great for local pollinators and are often easier to grow and maintain, as they are best adapted to your local climate and soil types.

Plan for blooms throughout the season and use annuals, perennials, flowering shrubs and trees. Rather than growing many species but only a few plants of each, grow few species but lots of each. A garden is most attractive to pollinators with many plants in bloom at the same time. Bees prefer a banquet to a snack.

Avoid hybrids, as many lack pollen and nectar. If your local garden centre doesn't carry native plants, ask them to start stocking them next spring! Be sure to give your plants lots of water in hot, dry weather, as this will help them produce nectar.



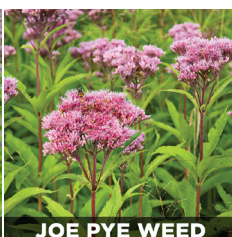
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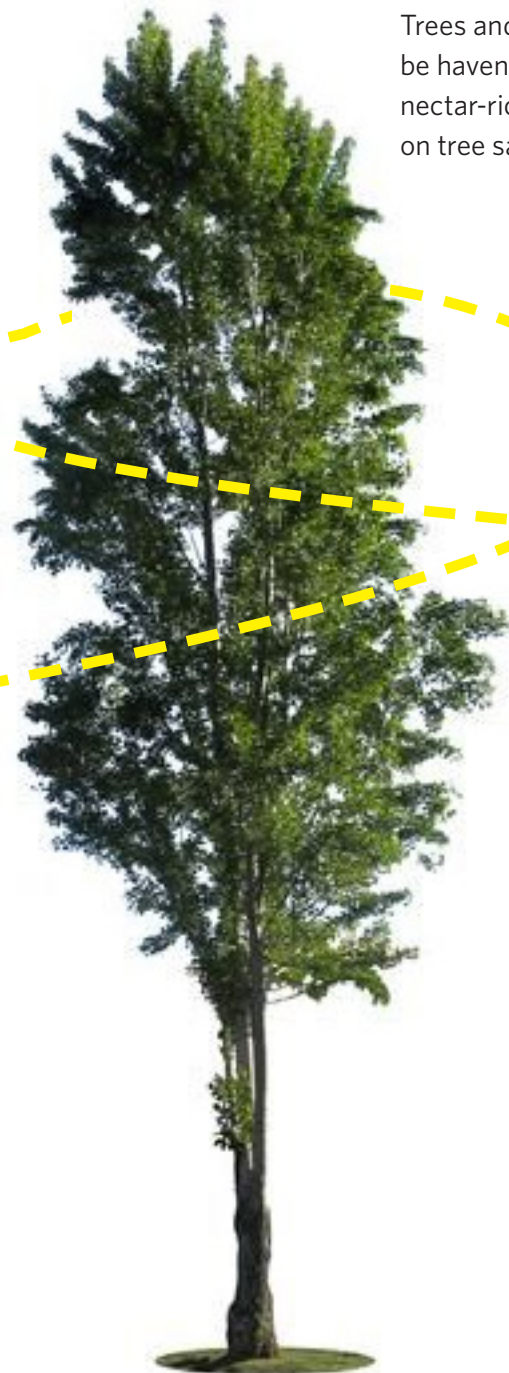


BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

2

## Invest in a tree or shrub

Trees and shrubs can take a few years to become fully established, but they can be havens for local birds and critters. Choose native species that produce nectar-rich flowers for bees and berries for birds. Many butterfly species depend on tree sap as food, from willows, poplars and elms, among others.



### THE HIBERNATING BUTTERFLY

Adult mourning cloak butterflies (pictured above) spend the winter frozen in tree cavities and under loose bark. They wake up and feed on sap from trees in the spring — which is why they're often the first butterflies you see!

Most Canadian butterfly ever?



# 3

## Create a woodpile bug hotel

Set aside space for a small pile of fallen branches, rotting wood and pruned stems from your garden. One-third of wild bees are cavity nesters that make their homes in wood and pithy stems. Rotting wood provides a home for mosses, fungi and lichens. As your pile decays, it becomes a veritable bug hotel.





# 4



## Leave sunny soil patches for bees

More than two thirds of wild bees in Canada make their nests in the ground. Avoid using mulch or other ground cover in a few areas, leaving bare patches of soil for burrowing bees.

Watch for signs of ground-nesting bees. They'll excavate a small hole to raise their young. Many of these bee species overwinter in the soil, so be sure not to disturb the soil in late fall or early spring.



# 5

## Provide a water source

Keep a birdbath or shallow bowl with clean water and place a flat stone in it. Bees will land on the stone and drink from there. Don't leave a container with water lying around; insects will be attracted to it but can't get out of deep water and may drown.



# 6

## Learn more about local bees & butterflies

Most of us can't identify more than a couple of bee or butterfly species that frequent our yards. Get a bug and wildflower identification guide and head to a natural area nearby. Take photos and do some detective work online when you get home.

Local conservation and horticultural groups often have helpful tips and resources.







## BLACK SWALLOWTAIL

- Found east of Manitoba, starting in May
- Overwinters as a chrysalis
- Caterpillars eat carrot, celery, dill and Queen Anne's lace



## MONARCH

- Eastern population overwinters in Mexico — a 5,000 km trip! — and returns to Canada in June
- Milkweed diet makes it taste bitter



## MOURNING CLOAK

- Found across Canada, emerging in April
- Hibernates as an adult butterfly in the winter, living in logs and loose bark
- Feeds on sap from trees



## PAINTED LADY

- Found across Canada, as far north as Nunavut and the Yukon
- Feeds on thistles, sunflowers and burdock



## RED ADMIRAL

- Found coast to coast, starting in May
- Migrates south in colder winters
- Feeds on sap, fermenting fruit and bird poop

# 7

## Create a neighbourhood Butterflyway!

Once you've added wildflowers to your garden, yard or balcony, join forces with friends and neighbours to share seeds and plants. Next, encourage schools, businesses and institutions to add pollinator-friendly plants to their gardens and properties. Stitch this network of pollinator patches together and you can create your own Butterflyway!

### **Want to have your neighbourhood formally recognized as a Butterflyway by the David Suzuki Foundation?**

We began working with teams of volunteer Butterflyway Rangers in five cities (Toronto, Markham, Victoria, Richmond and Montreal) in spring 2017. The goal is to establish citizen-led Butterflyways that include at least a dozen new pollinator-friendly patches in those communities this year.

If you live outside those neighbourhoods and have established a network of pollinator-friendly habitat this year, please let us know. While our initial focus will be on supporting Rangers, we hope to celebrate Butterflyways in other communities across the country too!



David  
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The  
Butterflyway  
Project





## Supporting The Butterflyway is Nature's Way.

Nature's Way of Canada is proud to support the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project. What's a Butterflyway? It's a highway of habitat for butterflies, bees and beneficial bugs. Together with citizens all across Canada, we'll be bringing nature home to our neighbourhoods, one butterfly-friendly planting at a time. Nature's Way has a long history of supporting environmental initiatives and we're very excited to partner with the David Suzuki Foundation on this incredible project.



Learn more at [www.natureswaycanada.ca](http://www.natureswaycanada.ca)