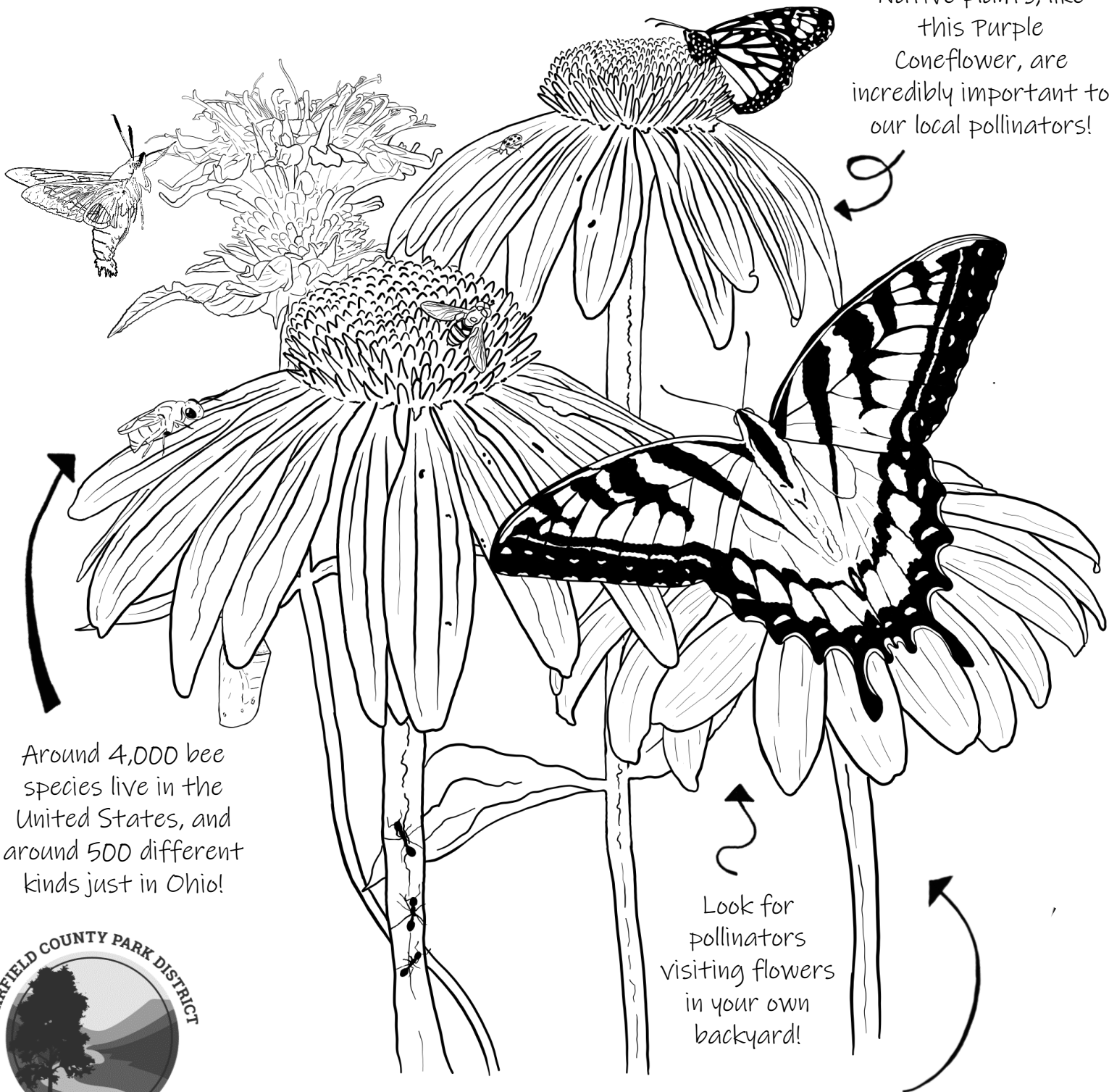


# Get to Know: Ohio's Common Pollinators

Pollination is an important part of a plant's life cycle. Without the help of pollinators, the majority of plants on Earth would not be able to reproduce. Unfortunately, human activities have led to a huge decline of our native pollinators.

Native plants, like this Purple Coneflower, are incredibly important to our local pollinators!



Around 4,000 bee species live in the United States, and around 500 different kinds just in Ohio!

Look for pollinators visiting flowers in your own backyard!



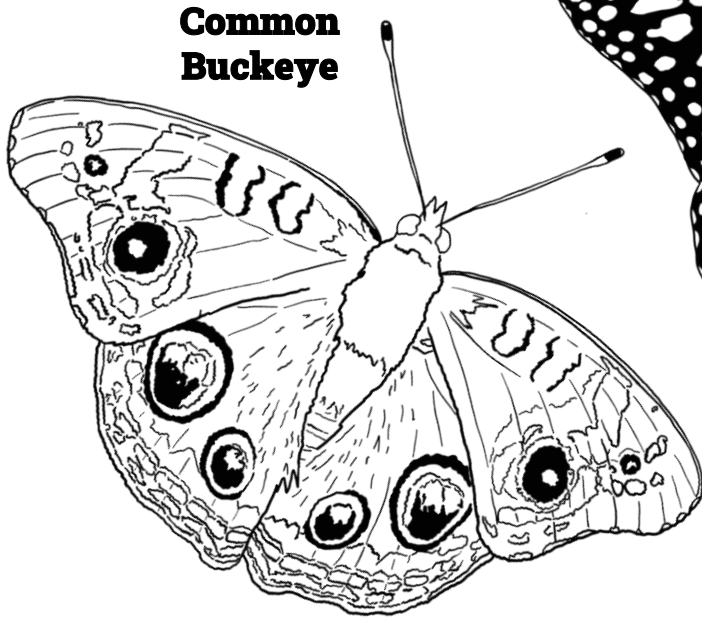
**For more visit:**  
[FairfieldCountyParks.org](http://FairfieldCountyParks.org)

Blueberries, chocolate, apples, almonds, coffee, peaches, pumpkins and many more are all produced with the help of pollinators.

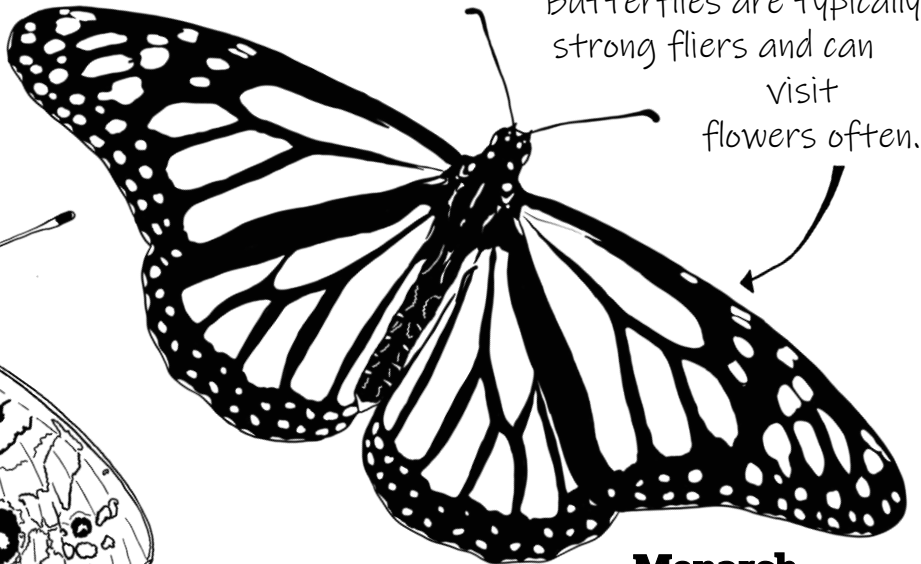
# Ohio's Common Pollinators



Ohio is home to many thousands of pollinators, here are some of the most common species you may even find in your own backyard:



**Common Buckeye**



**Monarch**

Butterflies are typically strong fliers and can visit flowers often.

**Eastern Tailed Blue**



Even the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a pollinator!



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

These birds especially love to visit red flowers.

There are many thousands of moth species that are pollinators. Most are out at night. Some, like this Clearwing moth, are active during the day!

Many moth species visit flowers at night!

**Tiger Moth**



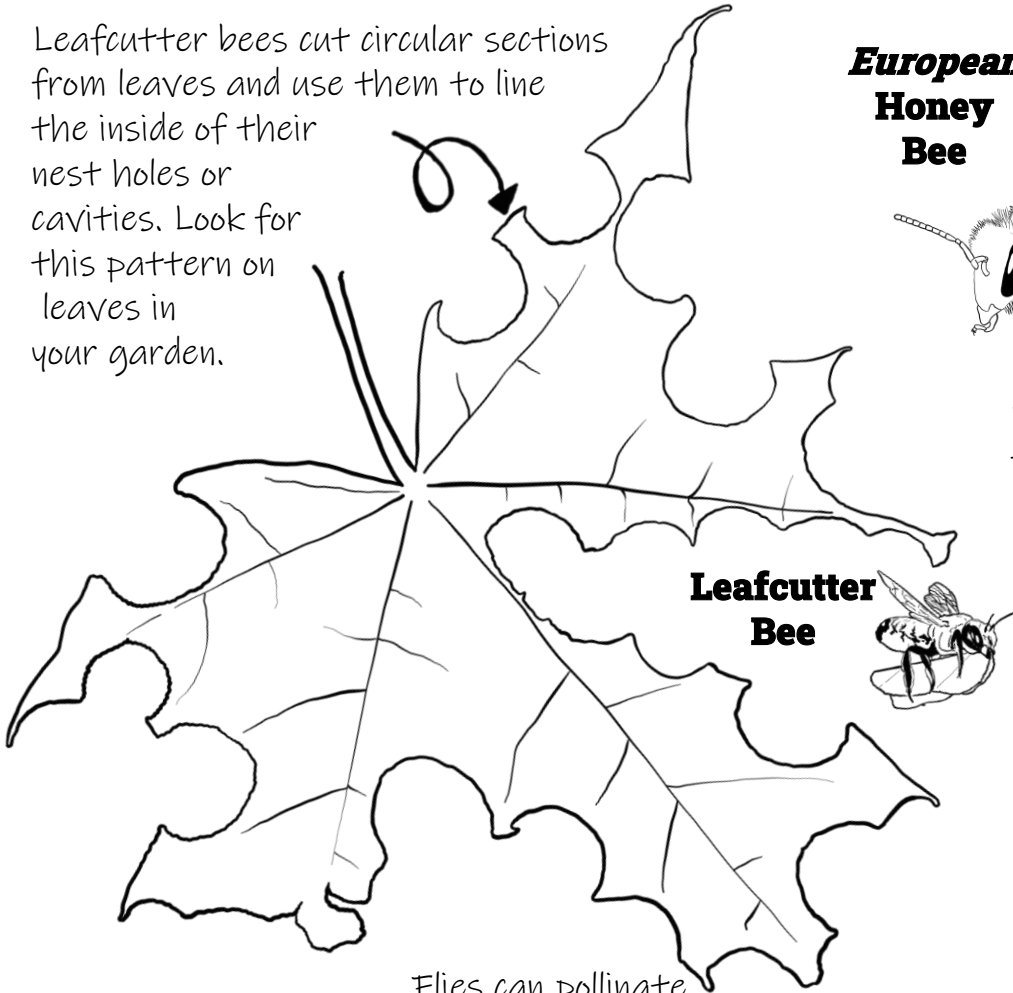
**Hummingbird Clearwing Moth**



# Ohio's Common Pollinators II



Leafcutter bees cut circular sections from leaves and use them to line the inside of their nest holes or cavities. Look for this pattern on leaves in your garden.



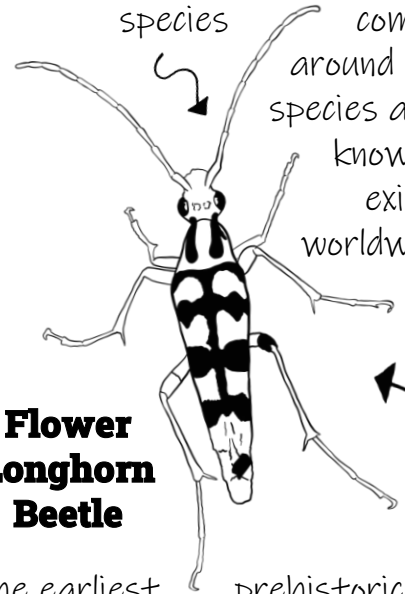
**Leafcutter Bee**

**European Honey Bee**



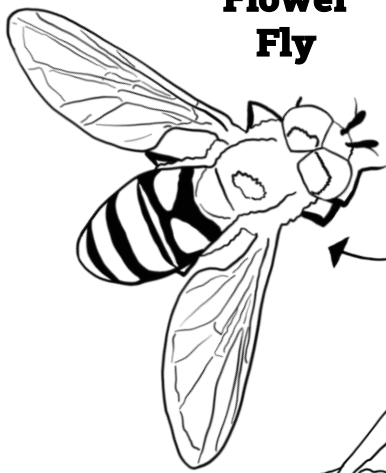
The Honey Bee is not native to the United States, but is essential in pollinating many plants which are important to humans, such as blueberries, cherries and almonds.

There are more species of beetle than all other insect species combined—around 450,000 species are known to exist worldwide!



**Flower Longhorn Beetle**

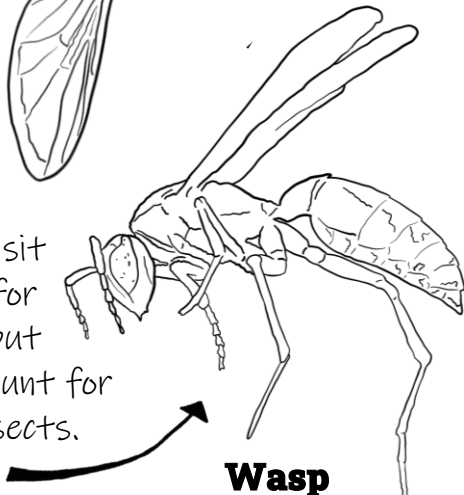
**Flower Fly**



Flies can pollinate blackberries, raspberries, plums, pears, apples and strawberries. There are over 6,000 species of flower fly in the world!

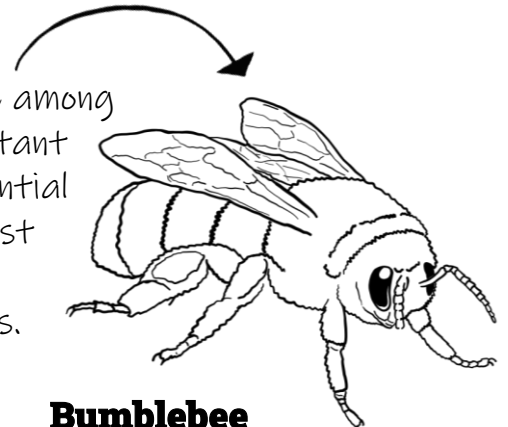
Beetles are among the earliest prehistoric pollinators. Fossil evidence has shown that beetles have been visiting flowers for over 150 million years!

Wasps visit flowers for nectar, but also to hunt for other insects.



**Wasp**

Native bees are among the most important pollinators, essential in pollinating most of the world's flowering species.



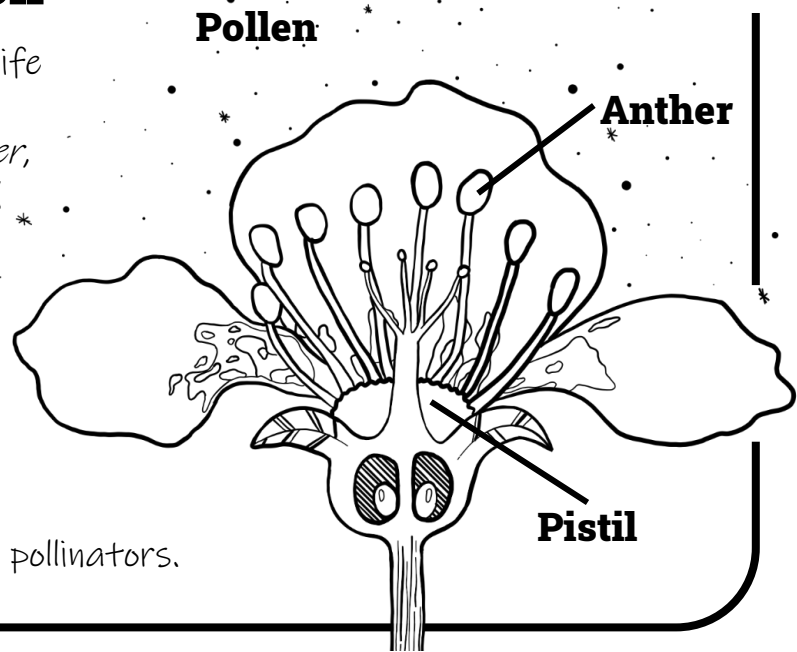
**Bumblebee**

# Protecting Our Pollinators



## The Process of Pollination

Pollination is an important part of a plant's life cycle. It is the process of pollen being moved from the male part of the flower, the *anther*, to the female part of the flower, the *pistil*. Without the help of pollinators, many plants would not be able to reproduce. Numerous plants do use wind or water for pollination, but over 90% rely on pollinators to get the job done. Unfortunately, human activities such as the introduction of invasive species, the use of pesticides, and loss of habitat all contribute to the great decline of our native pollinators.



## Pollinators need YOUR help!

Here are a few ways you can help care for our native pollinators:

### Plant for Pollinators

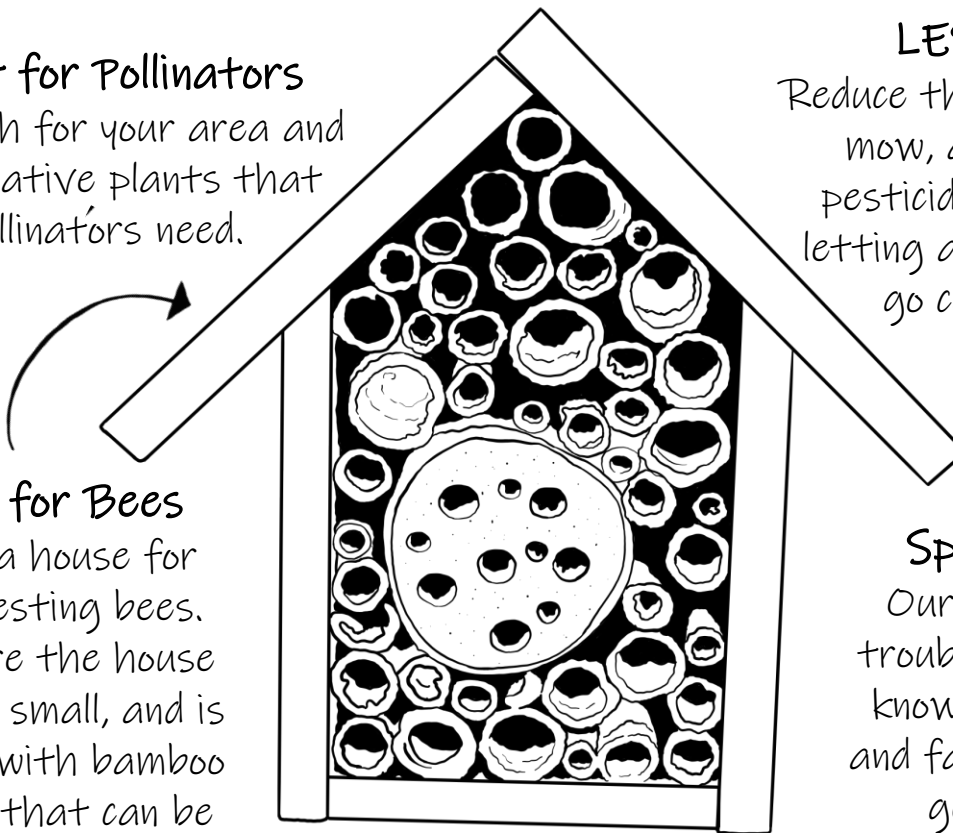
Research for your area and grow native plants that pollinators need.

### LESS Lawn Care

Reduce the amount of yard you mow, and the amount of pesticides you use. Consider letting a section of your lawn go completely "wild."

### Watch for Bees

Install a house for cavity nesting bees. Make sure the house you use is small, and is equipped with bamboo or tubes that can be cleaned and changed every year.



### Spread the Word

Our pollinators are in trouble. Share what you know with your friends and family and help them get involved too.