



Welcome to the Fall Garden Scavenger Hunt!

Discover the fascinating world of pollinators, learn about our local environment, and become part of a community working to make Monroe County a healthier place for people and wildlife alike.



Gather more information

- Read a book about pollinators.
- Check out a field guide for native plants or trees.
- Spend one hour outside.



Spot these species

What pollinators can you find at your home or in your neighborhood?



Eastern carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*)

Our largest and most common carpenter bee, the eastern carpenter bee is easy to recognize by its large size and shiny, hairless black abdomen.

Unlike many bumble bees, which have fuzzy abdomens, carpenter bees have what you might call a big, shiny butt! Despite their intimidating size, they're important native pollinators.



Sweat bees

"Sweat bee" refers to a large group of native bee species, many of which are valuable pollinators of wildflowers and crops.

While they come in a variety of colors and sizes, some of the easiest to identify are the metallic green or blue species that sparkle in the sunlight.

Keep an eye out—you may be surprised by how many different sweat bees you can find!



Hoverflies

Hoverflies aren't bees, but they're excellent pollinators and convincing bee mimics. Many species have the same yellow-and-black coloration as bees, helping deter predators. A closer look reveals two key clues: their large eyes and their unique ability to hover in place before darting quickly to another flower.



All ages



Observe this habitat

Woodland edges

Look for places where a forest meets a meadow, creek, trail, or road. These “edge” habitats are biodiversity hotspots, providing sunlight for plants, food for insects, and shelter for wildlife. Many birds, pollinators, and other animals depend on woodland edges for nesting, feeding, and protection.



Visit these locations



Visit an
**MCPL garden
or location—**
did you spot any
pollinators or
native species?



Can you find
native plants in
**your yard or
neighborhood?**



Rogers Family Park
2000 E. Winslow Road, Bloomington

Rogers Family Park features a five-acre native prairie filled with a diversity of plant species. Diverse prairies provide food and habitat for pollinators, which help plants reproduce by moving pollen between flowers. Common pollinators include bees, butterflies, flies, wasps, hummingbirds, and even some spiders, making prairies important ecosystems for supporting biodiversity.



Griffy Lake Nature Preserve
3595 N. Headley Road, Bloomington

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve encompasses more than 1,200 acres of relatively undeveloped woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat surrounding the 109-acre lake. The lake serves as an important source of water and supports a diverse ecosystem of native plants and animals. Together, the lake and surrounding forests provide food, shelter, and breeding habitat for a wide variety of species, making Griffy Lake a valuable refuge for local biodiversity.