

## **The Great Pollinator Project Begins at Rogers**

Friends of Rogers, the nonprofit group which operates Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne, NY, have been awarded a two-year, \$254,000 grant for pollinator habitat restoration and education. The funding comes from the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund, with the express purpose of increasing pollinator habitat and educating people of all ages on the critical role pollinators play in ecosystem health and economic vitality.

With this funding, Rogers Center will commence a twenty-five acre habitat restoration project, inviting all members of the public to participate in the process through school programs, public programs, and community events. Native wildflower plantings and invasive species removal have already begun. Anyone interested in participating in the project is encouraged to contact Gil Polk, Community Engagement Coordinator for Friends of Rogers, at [gil@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:gil@friendsofrogers.org).

“This is truly a dream come true,” said David Carson, Executive Director for the Friends of Rogers. “Our team came together to draft an application that combines habitat restoration with outdoor education, and we are fortunate to have received this funding to support pollinator species in Central New York.” Friends of Rogers will be promoting opportunities for public participation this summer. New pollinator-related educational exhibits are currently in the planning stages, including the return of an observation hive to the Visitor Center.

Rogers Center is one of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) environmental education centers. Tom Shimalla, DEC Environmental Education Bureau Chief said, “This project, perfectly suited for this outdoor learning facility and recreational asset for the region, aligns well with the DEC’s mandate to reduce mowing on DEC lands.”

With generous support from the NY Community Trust, who is managing the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund, the Friends of Rogers will be offering free pollinator programs to the first five schools who sign up for fall programs. Any teachers or administrators interested in scheduling a program are encouraged to reach out to Friends of Rogers Senior Educator, Erica Clark, at [erica@friendsofrogers.org](mailto:erica@friendsofrogers.org).

*The mission of the Friends of Rogers is to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.*

