

RIDOT is proud to launch a new *Pollinator Conservation Program* as part of our commitment to sustainable roadside management and habitat enhancement. This initiative supports a variety of pollinator species, including the monarch butterfly, by improving roadside habitat and adjusting mowing practices to allow native plants to thrive.

What RIDOT Has Done!

- Updated the Roadside Pollinator Seed Mix with native grasses and flowers. The seed blend, along with best installation practices, was designed and tested by the University of Rhode Island.
- Selected the best location for our conservation mowing pilot along the I-295 corridor.
- Created conservation area signs.

2025

- Begin conservation mowing on the I-295 corridor (except for areas immediately adjacent to the roadway that must remain clear for visibility and safety, or within construction zones).
- Monitor conservation mowing practices.
- Enroll in the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), in lieu of implementing a project-by-project approach,
- Continue public outreach.

Beyond 2025

RIDOT will evaluate the program's success and expects to expand conservation mowing to additional corridors. Pollinator-supportive plants will continue to establish naturally, with supplemental seeding in select areas using RIDOT's specialized mix. Reduced mowing frequency will offset costs associated with seeding, monitoring, and reporting - creating environmental and financial benefits for the State of Rhode Island.

Program updates will be shared on RIDOT's website [RIDOT Environmental Division](#)

