

VTrans & Pollinators

**Presented to the House
Transportation Committee**

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Bonnie Kirn Donahue

Vermont Agency of Transportation

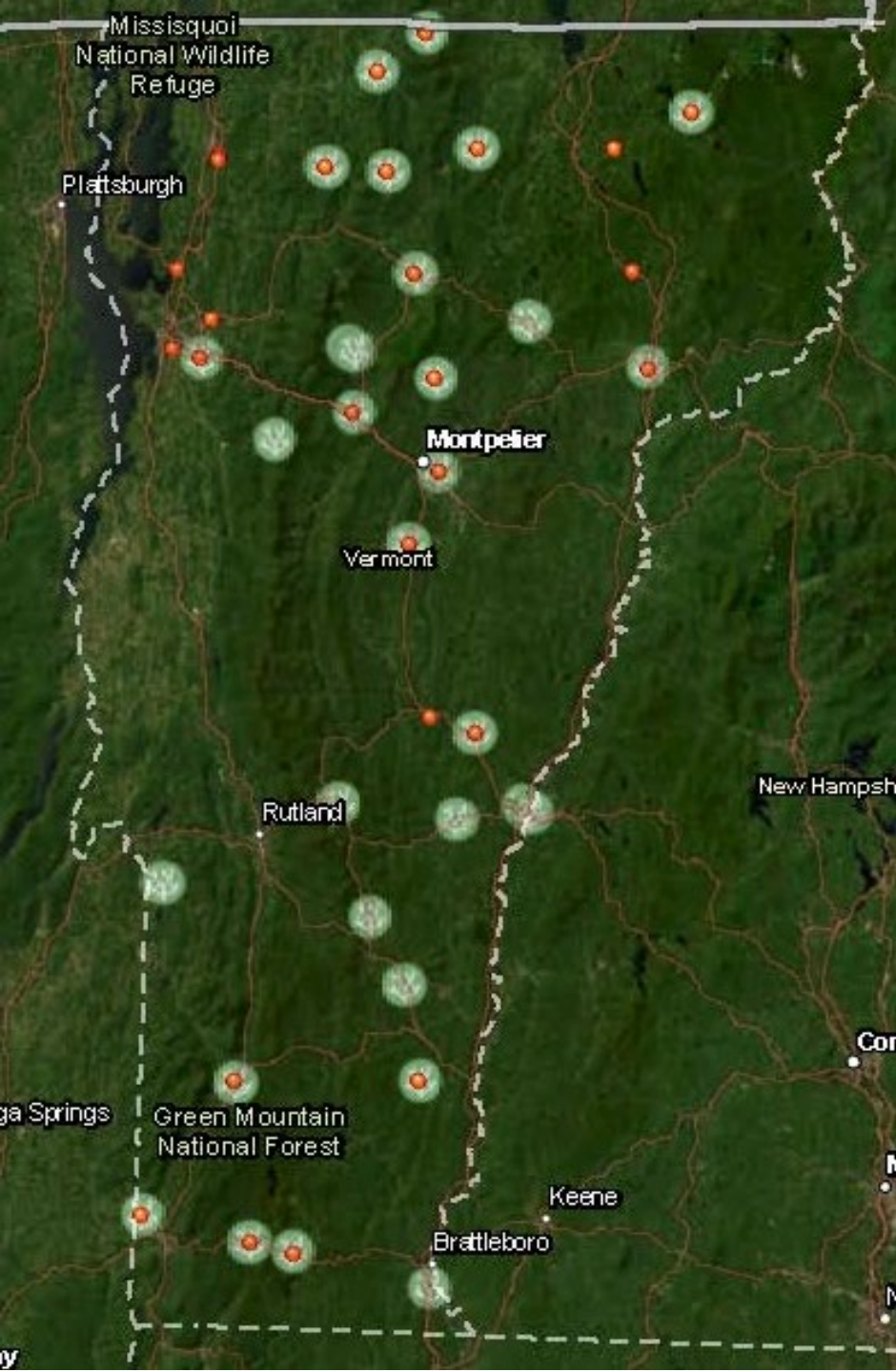
Bonnie.Donahue@vermont.gov





What VTrans Does For Pollinators



- ① Pollinator seed
- ② Native, pollinator-friendly plantings
- ③ Rotational mowing
- ④ FHWA Roadside Pollinator Grant
- ⑤ Conservation Agreement for Monarch Butterflies



Installations of Pollinator Seed & Plantings (2021-2025)

- (28) Projects with pollinator seed
- (31) Projects with plantings
- Over (16) acres of pollinator seed

Key

-  Projects with pollinator seed installed
-  Projects with plantings installed

Examples of species in pollinator seed mixes



White clover



Black-eyed susan



Goldenrod



Big Bluestem



Common milkweed



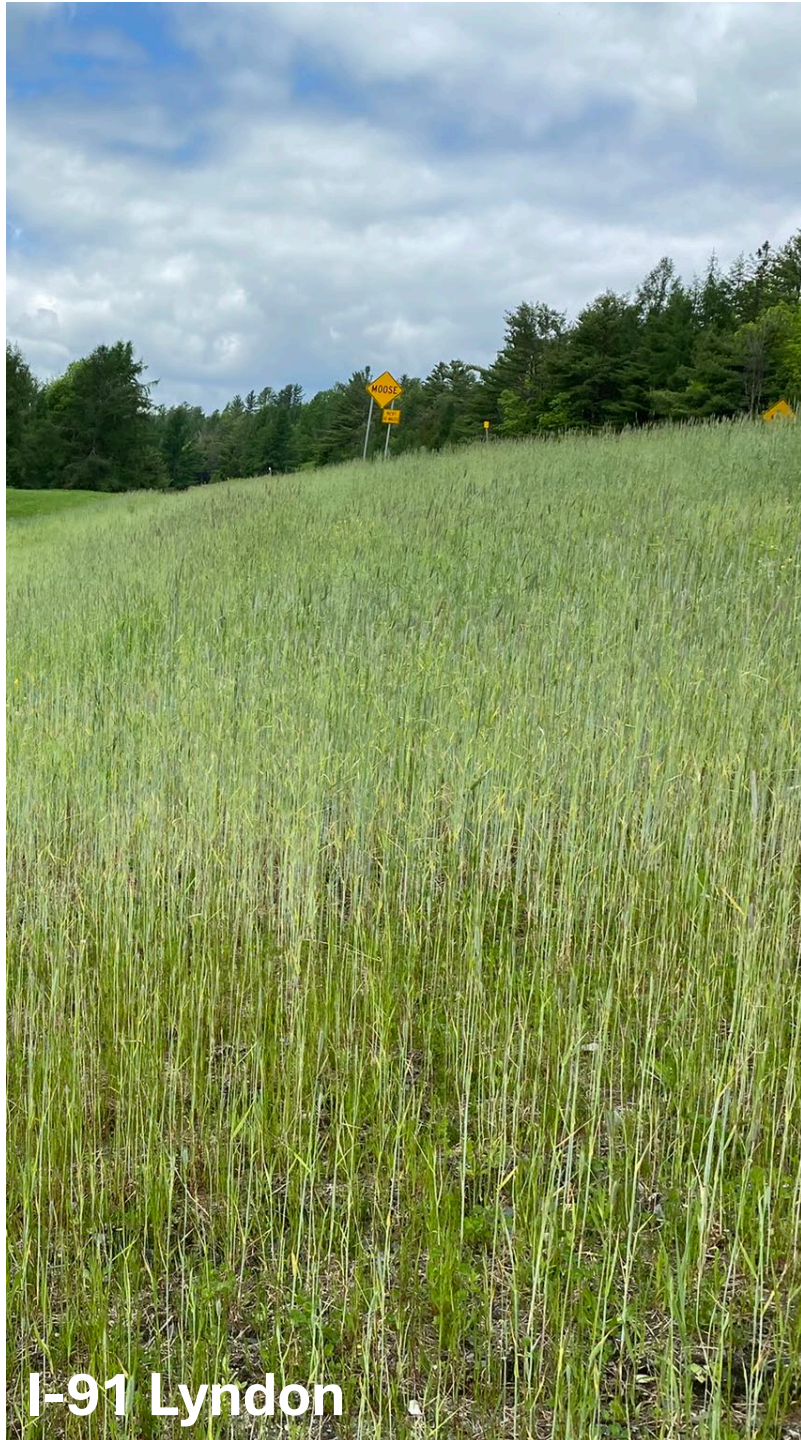
Purple-stemmed aster



Wild bergamot



Virginia wild rye

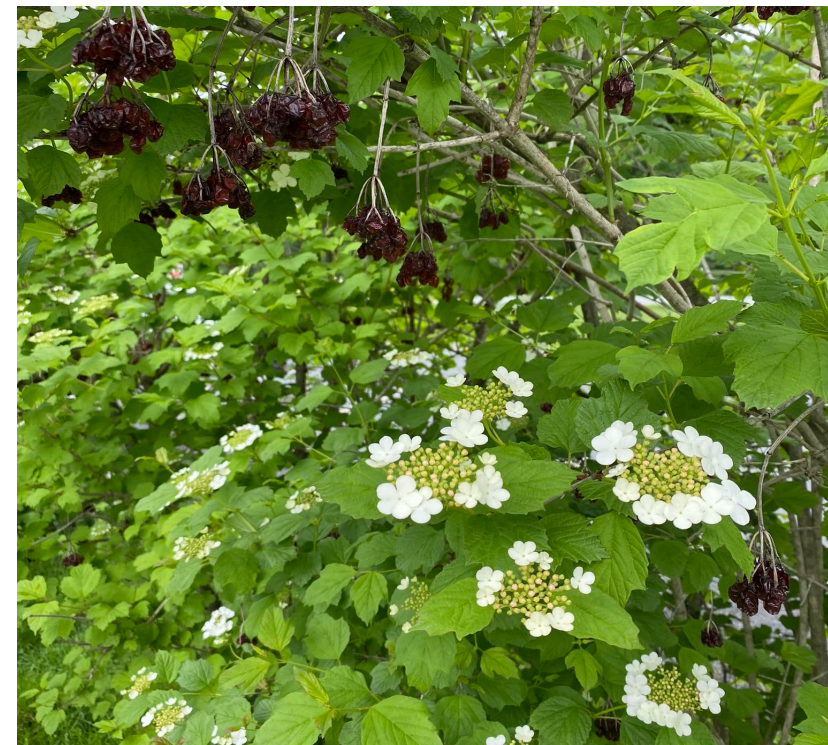


I-91 Lyndon



Pollinator seed sites
change over time

Pollinator-Friendly, Native Plantings Near Rivers





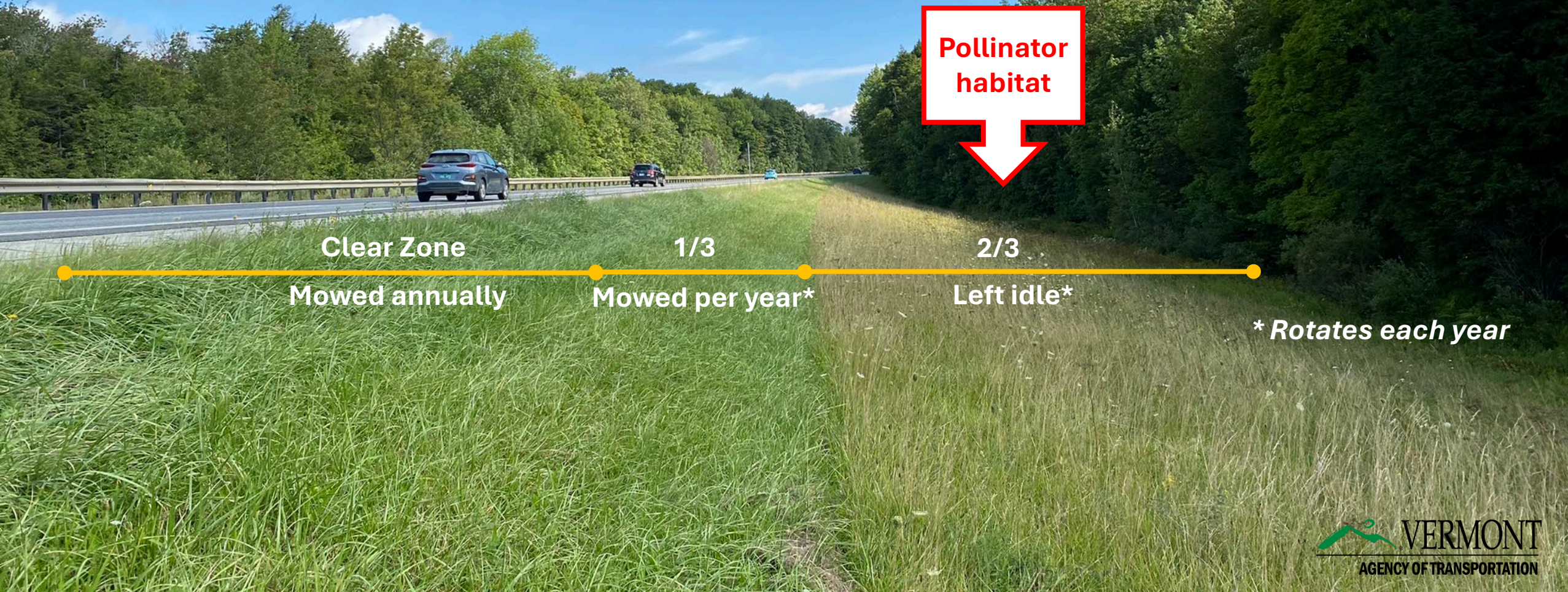
Rte 16 Hardwick



Pollinator-Friendly,
Native Plantings &
Erosion Control

Rotational mowing:

Outside of the clear zone, mowing the ROW on interstates and limited access highways 1x every 3 years.



FHWA Roadside Pollinator Program Grant

Vermont's grant proposal:

1. Build Pollinator Habitat:

1. Plant 5-10 half-acre pollinator seed sites in the interstate/limited access highway ROW.

2. Signage & Education:

1. Signs for mowing contractors.
2. Signs for public education.

Grant status:

- December 2024 – VTrans awarded grant.
- May 2025 – VTrans submitted a Grant Agreement to FHWA.
- Summer 2025 – A list of potential sites was developed, initially vetted, and prioritized.
- August 2025 – Informed by FHWA that 8 of 12 of the pollinator grants were moving forward, but Vermont was not on that list. It is unclear if this is a delay, or more permanent.
- Future – If the grant opportunity is reopened, the project is ready for final environmental reviews and the development of construction documents.

More about the grant:

https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_topics/ecosystems/pollinators/RPP.aspx



Nationwide CCAA for MONARCH BUTTERFLY

CCAA = Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

- The monarch is proposed for listing as a threatened/endangered species.
- If listed, VTrans would be required to get permits for common activities like working in meadows on roadsides.
- VTrans joined the CCAA in 2020: instead of T&E permits (if listed), we agreed to:
 - ✓ Practice rotational mowing on interstate/limited-access areas
 - ✓ Plant pollinator seed and plantings
 - ✓ Monitor roadside habitat annually

Already
common
practice





Questions?

Vermont Agency of Transportation

- Bonnie Kirn Donahue, *Landscape Architect*
 - Bonnie.Donahue@vermont.gov