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Contact: Sara Kokkelenberg, Education Coordinator & AmeriCorps member or Kay Ogden, Executive Director at (760) 873-4554

Kick off summer with the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project
Returning Pollinators to the Eastern Sierra

Envision your garden alive with butterflies, bees, and other pollinators this summer! This month, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) launched its Eastside Pollinator Garden Project to help bring pollinators right to your backyard. Through the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project, ESLT will provide participants with recommendations, certification criteria, expert advice, and online resources to help gardens come to life throughout Inyo and Mono counties. Contact ESLT’s Education Coordinators and AmeriCorps members, Sara Kokkelenberg and Ali Amberg, at (760) 873-4554 to get started on your pollinator garden today!

Pollinators such as the local Golden-belted Bumble Bee or Rufous Hummingbird are essential to sustaining a healthy environment, as well as the human and animal populations that rely on it. At least one-third of the world’s crop production and 80% of the world’s flowering plants depend on pollinators. They also play an integral role in maintaining wildlife habitat, clean air, rich soils, stable weather patterns, and our global food system. Here in the Eastern Sierra, they help to shape our region’s identity by supporting both our beautiful native flora and our strong agricultural legacy.

The Eastern Sierra region of California and Nevada is rich in natural beauty and maintains a strong agricultural legacy. Much of the area’s treasures, from wildflowers to working farms, rely heavily on the ecological service that pollinators provide. Unfortunately, most pollinator populations are in decline. Habitat loss, chemical misuse, invasive species, disease, and parasites all threaten our pollinators and contribute to their falling numbers. With the threat of fragmentation and population decline affecting pollinator numbers in our agricultural region, you can help reverse this trend by encouraging pollinators to flock to your garden this summer.

The Eastside Pollinator Garden Project will help local community members transform their gardens into pollinator sanctuaries, and will give each participant a certification plaque to proudly display in his or her yard. Eastern Sierra Land Trust is also committed to keeping project participants in the loop about upcoming garden workshops, events, and citizen science projects. Anyone interested in certifying a garden or backyard as pollinator-friendly habitat is encouraged to visit www.eslt.org to learn more, or contact ESLT’s Education Coordinators and AmeriCorps members, Sara Kokkelenberg and Ali Amberg, at (760) 873-4554. You can also attend our GardenFest event April 24th to learn more about the project and purchase plants for your pollinator garden.

ESLT works with willing landowners to preserve vital lands in the Eastern Sierra for their scenic, agricultural, natural, recreational, historical, and watershed values. ESLT’s goal is to preserve a healthy balance of land uses that can be sustained forever, ensuring both a

strong local economy and environment. For more information about ESLT's mission and preserved lands, visit our website at www.eslt.org.

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High resolution photo available upon request by contacting Sara at (760) 873-4554.



Photo Caption 1: A Painted Lady butterfly, one of the many pollinators you could attract with your certified garden! Photo © Ron Oriti

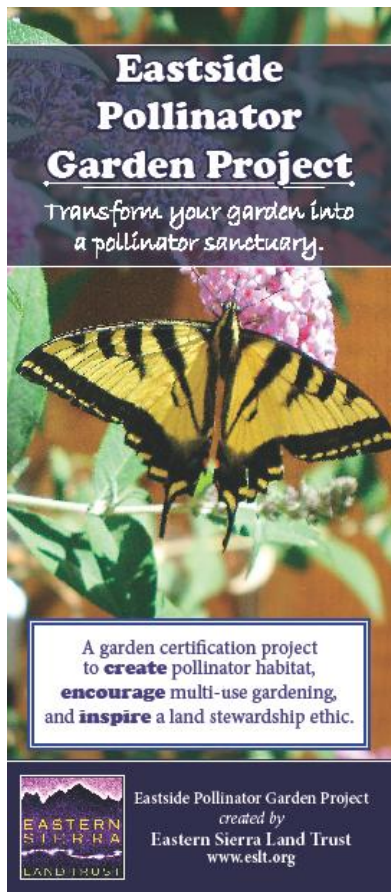


Photo Caption 2: Front page view of the Eastside Pollinator Garden Project brochure. You can pick one up at ESLT's office on Home St. and get started on your pollinator garden today.