

# THE RIVERTOWNS Enterprise

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of Hastings-on-Hudson,  
Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley  
and Irvington

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JIM MACLEAN/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Anne Myers of the Irvington Garden Club tends to her garden along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail.

## OCA invites neighbors to attract pollinators

By Jackie Lupo

REGION — The 26 miles of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail is set to become even more colorful, thanks to a new program that encourages property owners abutting the Aqueduct to plant pollinator gardens along its border.

On June 23, the program was announced by organizers Chet Kerr of Irvington, Haven Colgate of Hastings, and Steve Oakes, who is the site manager of the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) State Historic Park, based at the Keeper's House in Dobbs Ferry. They created guidelines approved by state regulators to allow landowners to obtain permits to create pollinator gardens using plants from an approved list.

The garden must be no more than 50

square feet, extending no more than 5 feet onto OCA property. It must be contiguous to a pollinator garden located on the landowner's property and it must be composed of native pollen or nectar-producing plants as defined by the "New York Flora Atlas," an online resource for gardeners ([www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu)). Gardeners must maintain and water their plots, and keep their plantings from encroaching beyond the 5-foot limit.

Kerr, a retired attorney and board member of the Greater Irvington Land Trust, founded the Pollinator Pathway Project in Irvington three years ago and helped neighboring communities grow it into the Rivertowns Pollinator Pathway Project. The project is an educational program that encourages private and public

landowners to install pollinator-friendly plants on their grounds.

"We hope to combine the vision of a Pollinator Pathway with the actual pathway the OCA cuts through the communities between Yonkers and Croton," Kerr explained. "The goal is to try and get people to think about planting plants that not only are native, but are providing a good environment for pollinators to thrive — to either eat or reproduce."

Kerr and Colgate, a member of the Hastings Beautification and Pollinator Pathway committees and the Hastings Conservation Commission, reached out to Oakes in 2019. Oakes thought it was a great idea, but that there would need

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## Plan vetted for former chemical plant site

By Kris DiLorenzo

GREENBURGH — The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is inviting public comment on a proposal to remediate contamination of 6.25 acres of the former Akzo Nobel site at 1 Lawrence Street, in the Ardsley School District area of the Town of Greenburgh. Comments are being accepted through Aug. 6.

The DEC and state Department of Health are reviewing the proposal by Environmental Liability Transfer (ELT), the St. Louis, Mo.-based company that purchased the 11-acre property in May 2017 for \$1.85 mil-

lion from Akzo Nobel, the Dutch company that operated a chemical plant on the site.

Akzo Nobel had planned to sell the property to Texas developer JPI, which withdrew a proposal for a 272-unit apartment complex, The Jefferson, in 2016 following opposition from the public and elected officials. ELT then purchased the property, and in July 2018 signed an agreement with the DEC to clean up the chemical contamination. All that remains of the former chemical plant are the building slabs.

The DEC's announcement of the public comment period stated that the DEC and health department

determined that "the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment," and that their decision was based on "the potential for off-site migration and human exposure to contaminants in the soil vapor."

The Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) and its related documents, including a 2009 site investigation report done for Akzo Nobel when it first decided to sell the property, can be found at [on.ny.gov/3w94I1s](http://on.ny.gov/3w94I1s). The RAWP was developed after an investigation of the site was performed, according to the 2018 Brownfield Cleanup

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