



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Catherine A. Lemmer, Library Director  
Goshen Public Library & Historical Society  
(845) 294-6606 ext. 101  
[clemmer@rcls.org](mailto:clemmer@rcls.org)

Anahy Chinas Campos  
Marketing and Communications Specialist  
Goshen Public Library & Historical Society  
(845) 294-6606 ext. 117  
[anahyc@rcls.org](mailto:anahyc@rcls.org)

### **Goshen Public Library & Historical Center Celebrates World Bee Day with Opening of New Outdoor Biodiversity Learning Area**

Goshen, NY, May 8, 2024. The Goshen Public Library & Historical Society invites the public to celebrate the opening of its Outdoor Biodiversity Learning Area starting at 1:00 pm on May 20, World Bee Day. The Outdoor Biodiversity Learning Area promotes environmental education and a love of nature by providing a meadow and wetland for interactive learning opportunities.

The Outdoor Biodiversity Learning Area continues the Library's commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship reflected in its 2019 library building design which implemented geo-thermal and other energy saving elements. This initiative, which aims to support local ecosystems, preserve pollinators, and enhance native plant diversity, aligns with the Library's commitment to foster a deeper understanding and connection to the natural world.

Jeremy McVey, Director, Environment, Health, Safety, & QA, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R), and Molly O'Donnell, Mayor of the Village of Goshen, will provide celebratory remarks to open the event at 1:00 pm.

The World Bee Day celebration serves as a platform to showcase the importance of pollinators and native plant diversity in maintaining ecological balance. Also presenting

from O&R are: Ecologist/Wetland Scientist Casey Tompkins who will provide a walking introduction to the project and provide valuable insights on selecting native plants for gardens, emphasizing their role in sustaining biodiversity - guests will have the chance to join in planting the wetland plants; and Arborist Mark Beamish will be on hand to discuss tree health and native plantings.

Starting at 3:00 pm, additional fun activities for families will include hands-on planting, pollinator crafts, a spelling bee competition, button making, and a special guest story time presentation at 5:00 pm.

Throughout the event, O&R will staff booths to share information and energy-saving tips from Customer Energy Services; showcase the Rivian EV truck; and have available items and discounts at My ORU Store.

"We are excited to have worked with Orange and Rockland Utilities to provide an amazing community space where individuals of all ages can engage with nature, learn about the importance of environmental conservation, and take actionable steps towards creating a more sustainable future," said Catherine Lemmer, Director, Goshen Public Library & Historical Society.

The Outdoor Biodiversity Learning Area was made possible with generous funding from Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.

The Goshen Public Library & Historical Society cordially invites members of the media to join us to celebrate World Bee Day and the opening of this new community asset.

### **About Goshen Public Library & Historical Society**

Goshen Public Library & Historical Society is a hub for learning, discovery, and community engagement. With a diverse range of programs and resources, the library aims to enrich lives and foster lifelong learning. For more information, visit

<https://www.goshenpubliclibrary.org/>.

### **About O&R**

Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc., one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies. O&R is a regulated utility that provides electric service to approximately 300,000 customers in southeastern New York State (where its franchise name is Orange and Rockland Utilities) and northern New Jersey (where it's Rockland Electric Company), and natural gas service to approximately 140,000 customers in New York.