

**DUPAGE MONARCH  
PROJECT**  
**COMMUNITIES PROTECTING POLLINATORS**

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020**



**A collaboration of the Forest Preserve District of  
DuPage County, River Prairie Group of the Sierra  
Club, The Conservation Foundation and Wild Ones  
Greater DuPage Chapter**

# executive summary

**"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrain of nature..."**

*Rachel Carson The Sense of Wonder*

The past year presented challenges on a scale not seen in decades. The pandemic reshaped everyday activities and shattered expectations, leaving behind pervasive anxieties about when ordinary life would return.

One by one, DMP's programs and events were cancelled, erasing months of planning and preparations. Sharp disappointment was felt by the indefinite postponement of the premier of an original monarch themed composition, an event two years in the making.

As the social sphere shrank, people turned to open spaces and nature for solace and reassurance. Local parks and preserves offering the constancy of nature have never been as important as during the early months of the pandemic. Visitor numbers in some places tripled.

We learned to adapt and new ways of connecting people to the natural world emerged. DMP and the Forest Preserve District co-hosted the first county-wide, virtual bioblitz using iNaturalist. Over 170 new and experienced "citizen scientists" participated.

We were pleased to receive applications for the newly created habitat and community engagement recognition awards. They confirmed conservation work continued during this difficult year.

Our community outreach increased with the addition of two levels of participation. Associate membership is now available to garden clubs, libraries, schools, churches and corporate campuses that are managing landscaping with pollinator friendly practices. Individuals reporting their conservation practices are recognized as Supporters.

We were tested in 2020 and the county wide commitment to protecting pollinators and monarchs grew stronger.



## Monarch Resolutions and Pledges

<b>Aurora</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Carol Stream</b>	<b>NWF Mayors' Monarch Pledge</b>
<b>City of Elmhurst</b>	<b>NWF Mayors' Monarch Pledge</b>
<b>City of Warrenville</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>City of West Chicago</b>	<b>NWF Mayors' Monarch Pledge</b>
<b>City of Wheaton</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Darien Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>DuPage County</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Elmhurst Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Fox Valley Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Glen Ellyn Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Lisle Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Naperville Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Oak Brook Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Villa Park</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Village of Downers Grove</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Village of Glendale Heights</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Village of Lombard</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Village of Westmont</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Village of Winfield</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Warrenville Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>
<b>Wheaton Park District</b>	<b>DMP Resolution</b>



**Jane Foulser Habitat Award**  
**Fox Valley Park District**



Jeff Palmquist, Director of Planning, Research and Grants accepting the Jane Foulser Habitat Award from Connie Schmidt, DuPage Monarch Project Board Member

In 2020, Fox Valley Park District seeded and planted 19.3 acres of pollinator habitat. Projects ranged from small, targeted enhancements to large scale turf-to-habitat conversions. A highly diverse species list was used that included five types of milkweed among a total of 59 forbs, 11 grasses, 4 carex, 7 rushes and 4 shrubs. The species ranged from early blooming Jacob's ladder and wild geranium to fall blooming asters.

The long term commitment to maintenance of the District's natural areas and ornamental pollinator habitat calls for a combination of mowing new areas followed by prescribed burns, selective herbicide applications for controlling invasive species such as teasel and reed canary grass, and hand weeding.

**Pat Miller Community Engagement Award**  
**Naperville Park District**

Naperville Park District has been restoring prairie, wetland and woodland habitats throughout its 54 year history, with plans for continuing restoration work through 2039. The District's strong commitment to restoration is coupled with an equally strong commitment to community feedback and participation in planning and implementing projects.

Each year the NPD reaches out to residents asking for feedback on projects planned for the upcoming year. NPD staff are open and responsive to suggestions for projects from Homeowners Associations and groups of residents. Volunteers take active roles in creating new habitat and enhancing and maintaining existing habitat. Scouts, corporate, church and service groups regularly volunteer for weeding, seeding, planting and removing invasive species. In 2018 and 2019, volunteers participated in a Dandelion Pull, cosponsored by Midwest Grows Green, as part of the natural land maintenance approach used at Knoch Knolls Park.

Brad Wilson, Director of Recreation and Facilities, Naperville Park District receiving the Pat Miller Community Engagement Award from Connie Schmidt, DuPage Monarch Project Board Member



## Darien Park District Joins DuPage Monarch Project in 2020

### New Natural Areas Are Blossoming

Darien Park District began converting turf and under-utilized areas to pollinator habitat in 2018 when The Gift of Carl approached the Park District about the possibility of converting a majority of Chestnut Park into a natural area with native plants for pollinators and butterflies. Bedrock Earthscapes seeded .8 acres of the park with native species.

Chestnut Park was registered with Monarch Watch as a Monarch Waystation in 2020.

After seeing the success of the Chestnut Park planting, three additional areas were planted in 2020.

Pollinator habitat was planted at Birchwood Pond, South Grove Playground and the Darien Community Center.

The Community Center planting is visible from a hallway and can be enjoyed by visitors and staff. It also offers opportunities for teachable moments by observing the plants, insects and birds through the changing seasons.

Pollinator habitat will continue to grow in 2021 with plans for an additional planting at South Grove Pond beginning in the spring.



## Fox Valley Park District Welcomes Bees, Butterflies and Grassland Birds to New Habitat

When the [Fox Valley Park District](#) joined DuPage Monarch Project in 2016, it made a strong commitment to enhancing and increasing pollinator habitat. This year, two major habitat initiatives made significant progress in realizing their vision of complementing recreational resources with natural areas.

Starting in December 2019, the Fox Valley Park District has been working to establish a total of 17.4 acres of new pollinator habitat at the Park District's Stuart Sports Complex. The 400-acre nationally acclaimed sports complex complements award winning sports facilities with wetlands, a naturalized stormwater management system, native prairie areas and an on-going initiative to convert unnecessary turf grass to pollinator habitat. This initiative has been supported by a \$10,000 ComEd Clean Energy grant in 2019

and a not-to-exceed \$20,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation in 2020.

In 2020, the Fox Valley Park District received a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for the establishment of Pollinator Educational Habitat at Lippold Park.

Lippold Park, located in North Aurora, is a 35-acre community park and a complementary natural area to the Fox Valley Park District's Red Oak Nature Center. Lippold Park is highlighted by a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Fox River shoreline.

This soon-to-be-created pollinator habitat will serve as a pollinator education focal point for grades K-12. This habitat site, strategically positioned along the Fox River Regional Trail, lies between the Fox River riverine ecosystem and an established upland prairie.



Photos: pollinator meadow Stuart Sports Complex; monarch Hoscheit Park; preparing site for planting at Lippold Park; swallowtail Hoscheit Park

# Naperville Park District's Long Range Goals for Pollinator Habitat Extends to 2039

Naperville Park District has been preserving and restoring prairie, wetland and woodland habitats in the parks for most of its 54-year history. With more than 2,400 acres of parkland, the District created a natural areas management plan to guide its maintenance practices and is committed to restoring additional areas with native plants each year.

Naperville Park District has a long-term plan for adding pollinator plants along pond and stream shorelines as part of stabilizing the banks. This plan began in 2008 and extends through 2039, committing over \$4 million in the Park District's capital budget over the 31-year period. The plan includes planting native seeds, plugs, trees and shrubs and a minimum of three years of maintenance for each site.

In 2020, a total of 8.92 acres of habitat were added in five locations. Shoreline restoration habitat at Clow Creek Greenway and 95th Street Community Plaza pond accounted for 1.8 acres. An additional 1.79 acres of pollinator meadow habitat was planted at Stanford Meadows Park and Will-O-Way Commons Park.

Naperville is developing its largest remaining park site, Wolf's Crossing Community Park as a combination of athletic fields, a playground, walking trails and 5.33 acres of pollinator habitat.

The Park District uses Integrated Pest Management and organic and natural approaches to maintenance and has reduced the use of synthetic products for weed control. Naperville Park District discontinued applications of neonicotinoids for grub control, replacing them with beneficial nematodes and the addition of a specific bacteria that limits the grub population. Additionally, as a non-chemical alternative for athletic fields in some parks, staff simply refrains from watering the week after the fourth of July, as soft wet soils invite egg laying in athletic fields. Springbrook and Naperbrook Golf Courses maintain areas of pollinator plants, allow milkweed to spread naturally, and do not use insecticides.



## Fireflies Are Pollinators

Fireflies spend most of their lives living underground as larvae (grubs), eating land snails, slugs, grubs and worms. As adults, their diet shifts to pollen and nectar. Using natural grub control techniques may benefit fireflies, a beetle enjoyed by many during the summer.



May Watts Park  
Naperville Park District

## BioBlitz 2020

### Citizen Science Role in Monarch Conservation

Once a problem has been identified and policies to remediate it are in place, it's easy to assume the scientific foundation is rock solid and final. The understanding of monarch biology and its complicated relationship to habitat continues to grow, redefining both the problem and the solution. Some of that research is based on data collected by citizen scientists.

There are still many questions about monarchs in need of answers, including the cause or causes of population decline. The answers require more data than can be collected by professional researchers. Observations are being made and shared by an army of citizen scientists about when the first monarchs arrive in spring, first eggs found, which milkweed the butterflies prefer and the date they're seen leaving on migration, producing large, useful collections of data.

The top five recommended monarch conservations actions are: more habitat, fewer pesticides, educate family and friends, limit climate change and be a citizen scientist. DMP added support for citizen science in 2020 by participating in the [National Recreation and Parks BioBlitz](#).

A bioblitz is a way of inventorying species within a defined geographic area during a specified amount of time. [Parks for Pollinators 2020: DuPage Monarch Project](#) collected observations from September 12 - 20 of bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, hummingbirds and flowering plants in DuPage County. Armed with cameras and cell phones loaded with the [iNaturalist](#) app, over a thousand observations of 314 species were made by 171 first time and experienced observers.

DuPage Monarch Project is developing a community of citizen scientists while establishing a data base of local pollinators that will help guide future conservation efforts.



## Who Are Citizen Scientists?

Citizen scientists are ordinary people with diverse interests and skills who participate in scientific endeavors through their hobbies and passions. There are thousands of citizen science projects, ranging from birdwatchers monitoring nests, weather data collectors, people swabbing surfaces for mapping the microbiome to competitive gamers folding proteins into their lowest energy form. What these projects have in common is an open door policy where anyone can join, participants adhere to protocols so data can be shared, data informs scientific inquiry and is accessible to the public.

Naturalist bioblitzers enjoy being outdoors and learning about nature. They're photographers, writers, gardeners, grandparents and kids. They're people having fun and contributing to the understanding of the natural world.



Cindy Crosby, author, prairie steward, naturalist, gardener and dragonfly monitor reflects on her participation in the DuPage Monarch Project BioBlitz.

**So many insects!** That was my thought while documenting pollinators for the DuPage Monarch Project Bioblitz this autumn. My backyard is a mix of cultivated garden plants and native plants; vegetables and shrubs. I'm a lazy weeder, so I have plenty of surprise "pop-up" plants that wander in. Among them this September were several asters, including *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*, the Panicked Aster. It mingled with the lovely purple New England Aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, which showed up in my yard a few years ago. Other unplanted and unidentified asters which I've yet to ID offer color and bloom in the autumn months and are welcome in my garden. Why? Pollinators! Honeybees, carpenter bees, bumblebees and native bees of several species.

The asters were abuzz with them from dawn until dusk. Nearby, native goldenrods drew throngs of wasps---excellent pollinators---and a new insect for me, the Locust Borer. My wild garlic chives lured tiny flies to their star-like flowers. Peck's Skippers and Fiery Skippers sampled my pretty non-native zinnias for nectar, while Cabbage White butterflies laid eggs on the kale and other brassicas in the garden. After dark, I sat on the front steps of the house and learned the names of the moths that landed close to the porch light: Common Angle Moth. Diamondback Moth. Dusky Groundling. And my favorite ---the Slowpoke Moth.

So many delights, right in my yard! All I had to do was pay attention. The DuPage Monarch Bioblitz helped me be intentional about looking at the natural world. I can't wait for the next one.

## Meet the BioBlitzers



Cathy Streett, an experienced [iNaturalist](#) user, made an impressive 128 observations during the one week BioBlitz. The iNaturalist app has given her a way of identifying, cataloging and learning about what she observes. The *Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz* provided an opportunity for her observations of pollinating species and flowering plants to make a difference for monarchs. An avid gardener and member of the Darien Garden Club, she has converted most of her landscape to native plants for supporting monarchs and other native insects and wildlife. She frequently makes observations at Chestnut and Birchwood Parks, two Darien parks with recent additions of natural plantings. "I enjoy being a citizen scientist, learning from my observations, sharing what I've seen and inspiring others to support monarchs and other native species," said Streett. "I hope that the shared data will support research, possibly legislation and action to protect not only monarchs but all native species."



When Chris Doty, a long time nature photographer, heard about the BioBlitz she was intrigued. The idea of her photos being useful in understanding the local population of pollinators was attractive so she opened an iNaturalist account and practiced loading photos from her camera into her phone so they could be geo-tagged and uploaded into the BioBlitz. Practicing paid off with 64 observations, captured with outstanding photographs. "I worry about insects," said Doty. "When I was younger, I remember cleaning insects off the windshield. That doesn't happen anymore. I'm glad I could do something to help."



# Backyard Habitat Makes a Difference

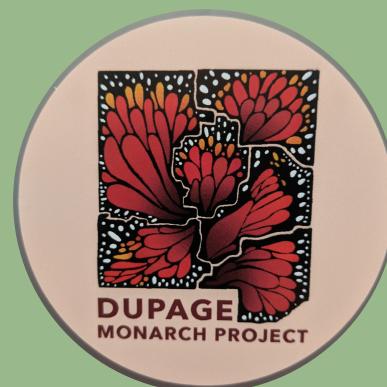
The general public does notice the loss of the things that they grew up with, they don't see fireflies anymore, there are fewer birds, they're concerned about that...This is an environmental problem where you can act and actually see results.

Doug Tallamy

Prairies vanished in Illinois and milkweed was scoured out of corn and soy bean fields. It began popping up in backyard gardens as gardeners discovered there can be more to a garden than attractive landscaping; it can be vibrant, nurturing habitat.

DuPage Monarch Project is inviting everyone engaged in monarch conservation to become a supporter, whether they are planting milkweed and native plants, discontinuing the use of insecticides, (especially the use of commercial spraying for mosquitoes), spreading the word about monarch decline to neighbors, family and friends or participating in one of many available citizen science projects like Journey North, the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project or monitoring milkweed with the Field Museum's Monarch Community Science Project.

Supporters become eligible to receive a free sticker when a brief survey is completed. Data collected through the survey on milkweed planted each year is shared with the Illinois Monarch Project, to be counted towards their goal of adding 150 million new stems of milkweed by 2038.



# Carol Stream Converts Four Residential Lots to Pollinator Habitat

What do you do when four residential lots no longer host houses? After a few years of mowing, Carol Stream looked for a less maintenance intense option and decided to create homes for pollinators.

The four lots were purchased to reduce flooding. Planting the empty lots with native plants provided habitat for pollinators and butterflies while also adding storm water benefits as their long roots help water infiltrate the soil. In 2019, the combined 30,000 square feet were seeded with 7 species of native grass and 34 species of native forbs by [Bedrock Earthscapes](#), a DuPage County based natural areas management company. The habitat will be maintained without neonicotinoid pesticides and by using a pollinator safe mowing schedule that is synced with insect life cycles.

# New Butterfly Gardens in West Chicago Will Delight, Educate and Inspire

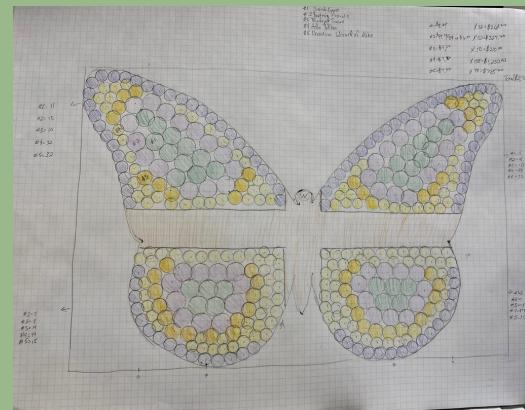
The West Chicago Park District, the City of West Chicago, and resident and Master Naturalist Judith Horsley teamed up this year to plant two new butterfly gardens.

The gardens have been in the planning stages since late summer 2019, when Horsley returned from a three-day course at the North American Monarch Institute (NAMI) in Madison, Wisconsin.

The purpose of the sessions was to further an understanding of the use of native plants and the importance of pollinators, and to learn how to help facilitate projects in and around the City of West Chicago.

The Don Earley Park Monarch garden will serve as a “laboratory” for citizen-scientist involvement and as a potential site for a Monarch festival.

At the suggestion of Michael Gasparini, Superintendent of Parks, the garden at the Reed-Keppler Park was planted in the shape of a butterfly.



## Monarch Habitat in DuPage: Part of a Regional Strategy for Monarch Recovery

On September 24, the [Illinois Monarch Action Plan](#) was signed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Agriculture, solidifying Illinois' role in the 16 state regional monarch recovery effort.

The Plan calls for adding 150 million additional stems of milkweed by 2038. Milkweed is being added by farmers participating in the Conservation Reserve Program, along roads and under transmission lines, along the Route 66 Corridor, on corporate and college campuses, in natural areas, parks and backyard gardens across the state.

Urban areas like DuPage County can play a significant role in achieving the goal of 150 million additional stems of milkweed. Researchers with the Field



Museum were surprised by the potential urban areas have to contribute to monarch recovery. "We think that cities could support 15 to 30 percent of the milkweed that's needed to save Monarchs," says Mark Johnston, a conservation ecologist at the Field Museum. [\*Cities are key to saving monarch butterflies\*](#) Field Museum June 21, 2019.

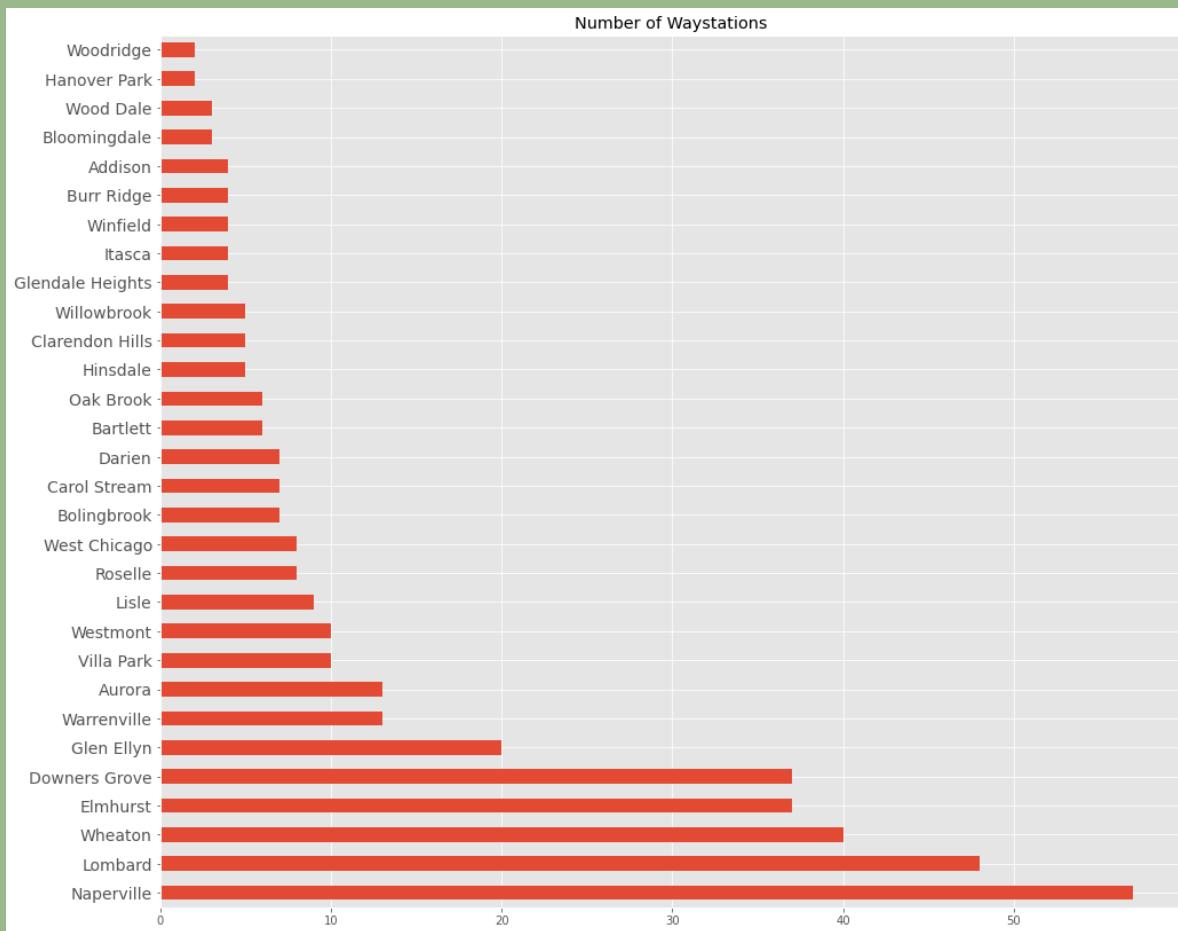
DMP's goals and the conservation actions undertaken by Signatory and Associate members align with the proposed conservation strategies of the IMP's Urban Sector Group.

DuPage County and the 21 villages, cities, and park districts in the DMP network have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving existing habitat and adding more where appropriate land is available. In 2020, the Fox Valley Park District added 19.3 acres and Naperville Park District added 9.1 acres. There are long range plans in several communities for additional milkweed and habitat in upcoming years.



Photo courtesy of Naperville Park District

# Monarch Waystations - DuPage County



In 2020, 46 waystations in DuPage County were registered with Monarch Watch, bringing the county's total to 437.

The monarch waystation program encourages and guides the creation of quality habitat with the resources necessary for sustaining breeding and migrating monarchs.

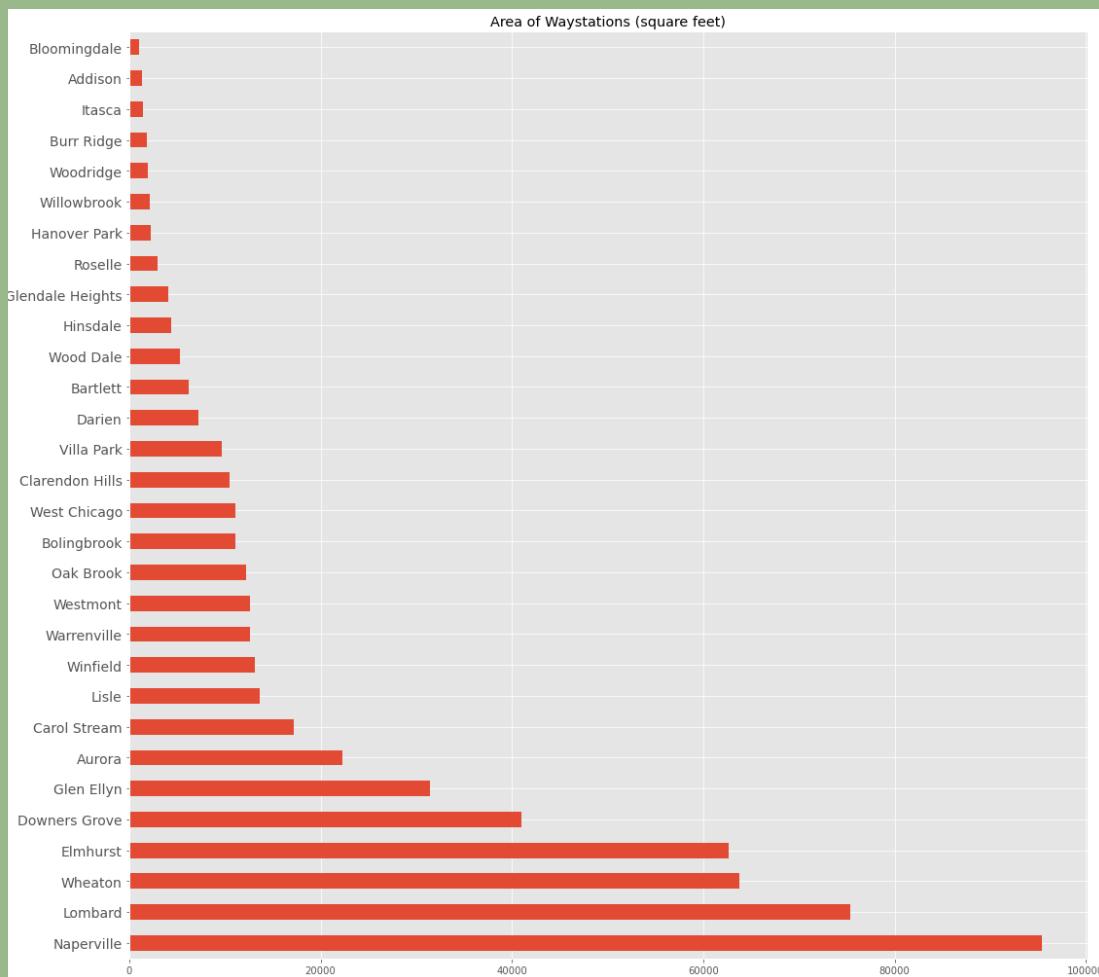
Other pollinator/monarch garden programs include:  
[Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/)  
[National Wildlife Federation's Garden for Wildlife](http://www.nwf.org/Home/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx)  
<https://www.monarchwatch.org/ways/>

## Guidelines for Monarch Waystations

- \* Recommended minimum size of 10x10, may be divided into different locations, no upper limit
- \* Sunny location
- \* Minimum of 10 milkweed plants split between two species. More is better
- \* A continuous bloom of nectar plants with several fall blooming species for migrating butterflies
- \* Shelter from wind and predators. Plant close together without crowding or exceeding individual recommended plant spacings

<https://www.monarchwatch.org/ways/>

## DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT



### Monarch Waystations by Area

Waystations are classified by area, ranging in square footage from:

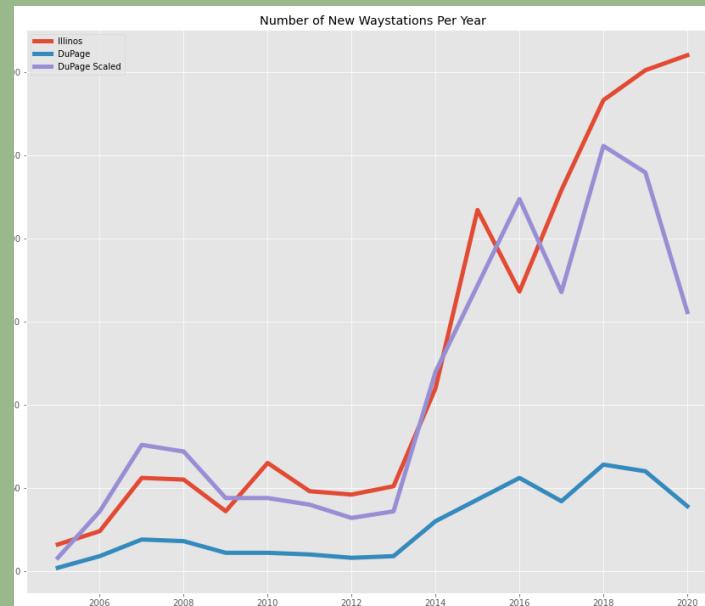
small = <200 sq ft

medium = 200 - 499 sq ft

large = 500 – 999 sq ft

x-large = 1,000 – 4,999 sq ft

colossal = > 5000 sq ft



Number of new waystations added in DuPage County each year compared with Illinois

## Signatory Actions

### Carol Stream

2016 - Monarch butterfly painting by Jan Smith was selected as the graphic for the annual vehicle sticker

2016 - The Village received a \$10,000 grant through the ComEd Open Lands program (along with donations from Baxter & Woodman, CH2M, and Bedrock Earthscapes) and developed a native prairie at the Water Reclamation Center (WRC).

2019 - Four residential lots (30,000 sq. ft) purchased for flood control were seeded with by Bedrock Earthscapes. There is a maintenance agreement for these areas with Bedrock.

### City of Elmhurst

2008 - 2018 - Five public schools registered waystations

2015 - Elmhurst College registered a waystation

2017 - Elmhurst Garden Club proclaimed 2017 *The Year of the Monarch*

2017 - Children's Monarch Fest as part of the Elmhurst Garden Walk and Faire

2019 - Commitment to pilot program at the Armitage tower site for organic lawn care in 2020

2019 - Fischer School is partnering with ComEd and Mighty acorns to restore a ComEd ROW to native habitat

### City of Warrenville

2016 - Pollinator and native plant resource page on City's website

2016 - Pollinator garden planted by Homeowners Association at Warrenville Lakes

### City of Warrenville cont'd

2017 - Article published in the *Resource Newsletter* on Monarch butterflies

2019 - Warrenville in Bloom planted a pollinator garden at Warrenville Public Library

2019 - Pollinator Garden planted by Maple Hill Homeowners Association

### City of West Chicago

2017 - Demonstration garden planted at City Hall

2018 - Conducting an inventory of appropriate sites for additional waystations

2019 - Declared 2019 as The Year of the Butterfly

2019 - West Chicago Garden Club included milkweed at the Blooming Fest Plant Sale

2019 - The Butterfly Effect, a public art project, installed 36 artist painted butterflies in public spaces throughout the community

2019 - Gallery 200, West Chicago High School and master naturalist Judi Horsley hosted viewings of *The Guardians*, a documentary about the challenges facing the monarch's overwintering territory in Mexico

2019 - The annual Christmas tree is decorated with butterflies.

2019 - West Chicago is recognized by DuPage Monarch Project for outstanding monarch community engagement and conservation initiatives

2020 - Pollinator garden planted at Don Earley Park. It will serve as a laboratory for citizen science involvement.

2020 - Planted a butterfly shaped native plant garden at Reed-Keppler Park

### **City of Wheaton**

2019 - The City of Wheaton, Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission and Wheaton Park District are planning for the 20th anniversary of the Native Plant Sale in 2020

### **Darien Park District**

2020 - Signed DuPage Monarch Project Resolution

2019 -

### **DuPage County**

2013 - Present DuPage County has added or renovated 25 acres of native plant habitat on its Wheaton campus. Four species of milkweed are maintained on campus as well as a diverse suite of plants that support pollinators throughout the growing season.

2018 - The county became a Level I Arboretum, certified by ArbNet. All new trees, shrubs, and plants are native, further supporting our native insects and wildlife and setting an example for over 1 million annual visitors.

### **Elmhurst Park District**

2007 - 2016 Registered four waystations located at 4 park sites

2015 - 2017 Local Eagle Scouts installed more than 30 nesting boxes for native bees throughout the District.

2017 - Co-sponsor of Children's Monarch Festival held at Elmhurst Garden Walk & Faire

2017 - Planted twelve flats of milkweed provided by the Elmhurst Garden Club in four Park District parks which contain Monarch Waystations

### **Fox Valley Park District**

2016 - Member of The Fox Valley Monarch Corridor Project, a 12 member collaboration.

Over the next two years, forest preserve districts, park districts, township open space districts and private conservation organizations will be enhancing nearly 1,000 acres of land in the Fox Valley by growing milkweed seed, distributing seeds and plants and putting plants in the ground.

2019 - Work began on 17.4 acres of habitat at the Stuart Sports Complex, funded in part by ComEd Clean Energy grant

2020 - Recipient of the Jane Foulser Habitat Award

2020 - Work continues on Stuart Sports Complex habitat project with funding from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation

2020 - Funding received from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation for Pollinator Educational Habitat at Lippold Park adjacent to the District's Red Oak Nature Center



## DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT

### Glen Ellyn Park District

2015 - Partnered with School District 41, GE Public Library, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the Village of Glen Ellyn to offer monarch educational outreach, put up banners, provided milkweed seeds, and installed two butterfly gardens, one at Maryknoll Park and one near parking lot of Crescent and Glenwood Avenue. Participants who installed the gardens received milkweed plants (total of 760 given away).

2016 - Village of Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission and Park District offered "We Support Pollinator" signs as part of an awareness campaign.

2016 - Village of Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission and Park District offered "We Support Pollinator" signs as part of an awareness campaign.

2016 - In collaboration with the Village of Glen Ellyn, added milkweed and nectar plants to a planting between a parking lot and Crescent Ave

2016 - Turf conversion project began at Maryknoll Park. Two and a half acres were planted to a low-stature prairie that will offer habitat. Project is on-going.

2017 - 2018 - In collaboration with the Village of Glen Ellyn hosted two Sustainable Yard Tours

2018 - Native tree and shrub sale co-offered by The Conservation Foundation and Village's Environmental Commission

2018 - Registered waystations at two parks, Churchill and Maryknoll

2018 - Milkweed plants and nectar sources added to natural areas and park gardens

2018 - Continuing to offer monarch education programs at schools and camps

2019 - Summer nature camp program incorporates monarch education. Some sessions planted milkweed and flowers

2019 - Naturalist visits to park district preschool programs included pollinator education

2019 - Annual collection and dispersal of milkweed seeds in park natural areas

2019 - Sustainable Yard Tours and a Native Tree and Shrub sale - both with components that support pollinator and monarch efforts.

2020 - With funding from ComEd's Greenest Region Program, expanded the butterfly garden, purchased plant labels, installed interpretative signage featuring QR codes for additional info supporting pollinators and expanded the pollinator meadow at Maryknoll Park.

2020 - In conjunction with The Conservation Foundation and Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission held the annual native shrub and tree sale in Sept.



### **Lisle Park District**

2011 – Hired its first Naturalist and began expanding natural areas and no-mow zones. Began concerted effort to expand the use of native plants and seed mixes in park restoration projects.

2014 – Installed six honey bee hives in Community Park that are managed by a professional beekeeper. Honey harvested is available for public purchase at the Lisle Park District Recreation Center and various special events.

2019 – Conservation Foundation certified Abbeywood Park and native flower beds at the Recreation Center as environmentally friendly.

2019 – Installed four additional honey bee hives in River Road Park

2019 – District initiated a Pesticide Free Pilot Program at four of its parks. Hosted kick-off event at Leask Lane Park on June 2. Received community donations from Stonyfield Organic Yogurt and Jewel-Osco totaling \$10,000 to advance the District's efforts. Hosted press event at Connelly Memorial Park on August 17 attended and supported by Illinois State Representative Terra Costa Howard, State Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton and US Representative Sean Casten.

2019 – Board of Park Commissioners adopted a Resolution "Authorizing the Director of Parks & Recreation to enhance and expand available habitat for Monarch Butterflies and other Native Pollinators."

2019 – With Midwest Grows Green, Stonyfield Organic Yogurt and Osborne Organics, hosted a free Organic Parks Workshop on October 24th to promote the use of organic park maintenance and the importance of soil biology, cultural practices and other natural lawn care concepts.

### **Naperville Park District**

2016 - Raised and released 35 monarch butterflies as an ongoing educational display at Knoch Knolls Nature Center

2016 - Passed a Monarch Resolution

2017 - Designated a Monarch Waystation at Knoch Knolls Park

2017 - Raised, tagged and released 40 monarch butterflies as an ongoing educational display at Knoch Knolls Nature Center

2017 - Hosted Monarch Festival at Knoch Knolls Park/Nature Center

2018 - Added habitat at Knoch Knolls Park

2018 - Designated a Monarch Waystation at Ron Ory Community Garden Plots Idea Garden

2018 - Added habitat along parking lot at Ron Ory Community Gardens

2020 - Recipient Pat Miller Community Engagement Award

2020 - Shoreline Restorations at Clow Creek Greenway and 95th Street Community Plaza Pond added 1.8 acres of habitat

2020 - 1.79 acres of habitat added to Pollinator Meadows in Stanford Meadows Park and Will-O-Way Commons Park

2020 - Wolf's Crossing Community Park is underdevelopment and will include 5.33 acres of pollinator habitat

2020 - NPD uses Integrated Pest Management and has discontinued neonicotinoid based pesticides for grub control, replacing them with beneficial nematodes and a specific bacteria. Some athletic fields are not watered for a week in July to inhibit egg laying.

2020 - Springbrook and Naperbrook Golf courses maintain areas of pollinator plants, allow milkweed to spread naturally and do not use insecticides

## DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT

### **Oak Brook Park District**

2019 - Signed monarch resolution  
2019 - Dean Nature Sanctuary is developing an apiary for pollinator health  
2019 - Ginger Creek restoration will include milkweed and native plants

### **Villa Park**

2017 - In collaboration with the Villa Park Economic Commission, Environmental Commission, Kenilworth Watch Group, Community Pride Commission, Villa Park Garden Club, The Conservation Foundation and DuPage Monarch Project planted five butterfly gardens along the Great Western Trail.

### **Village of Downers Grove**

2018 - A pollinator garden is coming to the open areas near the Belmont underpass. The grass inside the turnarounds at Warren Avenue and Belmont Road is being replaced with sustainable native plants to attract and provide a habitat for pollinators. The garden will also include milkweed to target Monarch butterflies, building on efforts by surrounding suburbs to develop a "Monarch corridor" along the BNSF railroad

2019 - Interpretative signage added to the Belmont Station Pollinator Project

2019 - Pierce Downer Heritage Alliance volunteers and city staff added forbs to the Belmont Station Pollinator Project

### **Village of Glendale Heights**

2017 - Added monarch/pollinator plants to an ornamental bed at the Historic House  
2018 - Planted a Monarch Waystation at Mill Pond Park.  
2018 - Glenside Library and Immigrant Solidarity Dupage planted Monarch Waystation at the library  
2019 - Hosted a showing of The Guardians.  
2019 - Plants added to the Glenside Library monarch garden

### **Village of Westmont**

2017 - ongoing: The Villages of Clarendon Hills and Westmont are working together to design and develop the Richmond Education Gardens and Apiary. This new facility will be located on the unused 0.15 acre Village public road right of way, between the Village of Clarendon Hills Public Works facility and the Downers Grove Township Highway Garage, south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad. This right-of-way is owned by both the Village of Clarendon Hills and the Village of Westmont. Once completed, the Gardens will provide a new place in our communities to promote education programs about natural and organic gardening methods and our environment.

2018 - Registered a monarch waystation located in downtown Westmont

2020 - Seeded 4.28 acres of a detention area in the Ashford subdivision with site appropriate native species

2020 - Continued work on the Richmond Education Gardens and Apiary (REGA) project. Added a short grass prairie planting and shrubs and trees.

## DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT

### Village of Winfield

2019 - Signed a monarch resolution

### Warrenville Park District

2019 - Hosted a viewing of The Guardians, a documentary about the challenges facing the monarchs overwintering refuges in Mexico

### Wheaton Park District

2016 - Registered five monarch waystations

2018 - Registered one waystation

2019 - Worked with SCARCE to reduce the amount of chemicals put on surfaces as well as to dramatically increase the number of native plants in the parks

2019 - Held 19th Annual Native Plant Sale

### Associate Members

Associate Members are organizations such as garden clubs, schools, churches and businesses actively involved with monarch conservation by planting milkweed and nectar plants, reducing or eliminating the use of pesticides, collecting seeds, sharing or selling native plants, engaged in educational outreach about monarchs and pollinators through signage, programs, blogs, facebook or guided walks.

### Community Presbyterian Church of Clarendon Hills

2019 - planted 50 milkweed plants

2020 - planted 50 milkweed plants

2021 - plan to add 150 milkweed plants

### Wheaton Garden Club

2017 - formed a Monarch Committee, established a goal of 10 members planting a waystation

2017 - Lobbied for City of Wheaton to sign a Monarch Resolution which was signed on May 16 2017

2017 - hosted an educational display on monarchs at the Wheaton Public Library

2018 - In June provided a print copy of the *Bee a Monarch Champion* poster to the Wheaton Public Library

2018 - In Sept., created a monarch display at the Wheaton Public Library

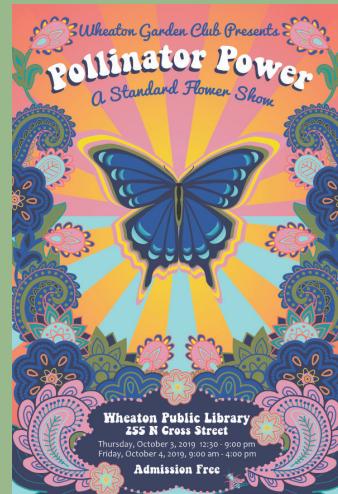
2019 - theme for the annual flower show was Pollinator Power

2020 - Received a second place Planting for Pollinators Award from the Garden Clubs of Illinois

2020 - 5 waystations registered with Monarch Watch

2020 - milkweed planted in five member gardens

2020 - Received permission from Wheaton Park District to plant a pollinator garden at Seven Gables Park



Poster by  
Jane Kellenberger

## Partner Organization Representatives

**Anamari Dorgan, CPRP, Director of Community Services and Education**

Forest Preserve District DuPage County

**Connie Schmidt, Chair, Illinois Sierra Club**

River Prairie Group of the Illinois Sierra Club

**Jim Kleinwachter, Conservation@Home Program Manager**

The Conservation Foundation

**Jeanette Goodlow, Board Member**

Wild Ones Greater DuPage Chapter

## Volunteers

Lonnie Morris - Coordinator

Kim White - Educator

Bruce Blake - Garden Consultant

Karen Brittain

Jill Spealman

Linda Bedard

Margaret Nuccio

Lea Rodberry

Kamila Krupiarz



# Photos

Cover: Monarch on blue mist: DuPage Monarch Project

Page 2: Monarch on zinnia: DuPage Monarch Project

Page 3: Monarch: Gary Davis

Page 4: Jeff Palmquist, Director of Planning, Research and Grants, Fox Valley Park District and Connie Schmidt, DuPage Monarch Project Board Member: DuPage Monarch Project  
Brad Wilson, Director of Recreation and Facilities, Naperville Park District  
Connie Schmidt, DuPage Monarch Project: DuPage Monarch Project

Page 5: Darien Community Center: Courtesy of Darien Park District  
Chestnut Park, Darien Park District: Courtesy of the Darien Park District  
Chestnut Park, Darien Park District: Courtesy of the Darien Park District

Page 6: clockwise from top  
Pollinator meadow, Stuart Sports Complex, Fox Valley Park District:  
Aaron Reinhart, Superintendent of Golf and Turf Management  
Monarch, Hoscheit Park, Fox Valley Park District: Keith Jones,  
Project Manager/Senior Ecologist, V3 Companies, Ltd  
Site preparation, Lippold Park, Fox Valley Park District:  
Jeff Palmquist, Director of Planning, Research and Grants  
Swallowtail, Hoscheit Park, Fox Valley Park District: Keith Jones,  
Project Manager/Senior Ecologist, V3 Companies, Ltd

Page 7: Monarch, Ron Ory Garden Plots: Courtesy of Naperville Park District  
Firefly coated with pollen: Chris Doty  
May Watts Park: Courtesy of Naperville Park District

Page 8: Bee: DuPage Monarch Project  
Monarch: molanic, iNaturalist  
Hummingbird: Chris Doty

Page 10: Cathy Streett: Cathy Streett  
Monarch on blue mist: Cathy Streett  
Chris Doty: Chris Doty  
Monarch: Chris Doty

## **DUPAGE MONARCH PROJECT**

Page 11: Belmont Pollinator Garden, Village of Downers Grove: Courtesy of Village of Downers Grove

Monarch caterpillar: Courtesy of Glen Ellyn Park District

DuPage Monarch Project sticker: Georgia Brooks

Page 12: Design for butterfly garden by Judith Horsley: Courtesy of City of West Chicago

Page 13: Illinois Monarch Project Logo

Ron Orly Community Garden Plots: Courtesy of Naperville Park District

Page 17: Swallowtail, Hoscheit Park, Fox Valley Park District: Keith Jones, Project Manager/Senior Ecologist, V3 Companies, Ltd

Page 18: Planting plugs, Pollinator Meadow, Glen Ellyn Park District: Courtesy of Glen Ellyn Park District

Page 21: Pollinator Power Poster: Jane Kellenberger