

Friends of the Monarch Trail

Spring Newsletter

We've come a long way and need to update all our Friends on the Monarch Conservancy and Dot Easement that collectively create our Monarch Trail. This Habitat is unique to the area because it contains 2 annual migratory roost sites within the space. It is preserved and continues to be enhanced by The Friends of the Monarch Trail.

Our Annual Plant Sale and Fundraiser

This year's fund raiser was a grand success and wonderful event. Thanks to the volunteers and all those who came to buy milkweeds and nectar plants!



Monarch Migration:

The last 2 years have been so-so for monarch numbers during migration, but the peak is still around the 15th of September. A few big years occurred in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The overall population still struggles with so many challenges-including habitat loss and a changing climate and is reflected in our local populations too.

Grants:

We have completed an MMSD Grant 2020-2021 project on the far western side near the expressway-clearing nonnative cattails that were choking out the stream and replacing them with native wetland species. surprisingly, even a few of the plants from our 2015 planting 7 years ago survived the invasives invasion.



In 2022 We also received a Grant from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation for new Interpretive Signage for the Trail and will be installing 2 beautiful signs this spring! Come to the "Unveiling" and Trail tour on July 8th!



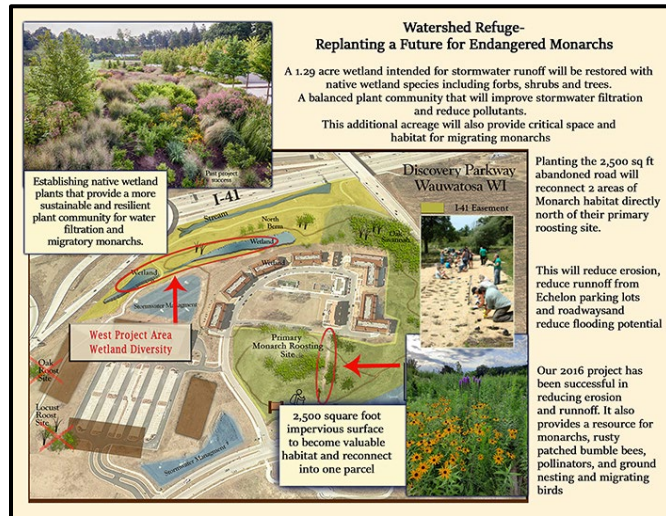
Another fabulous surprise last year was an amazing response to a grant application from the **WE Energies Foundation**; They contributed **\$5,400** to our 2023 Project: Wetland Refuge-Replanting a Future for Endangered Monarchs.!

This year, 2023, we applied for and received a grant from the Fund For Lake Michigan for this Project: Wetland Refuge Restoration: A Future for Endangered Monarchs. . Half of our Wetland Restoration project will be covered by the Fund for Lake Michigan and we, because of your support, will be able to cover the other half. We are so Grateful to the Fund for Lake Michigan and all of the organizations who feel strongly about our unique area and help so much for its improvement.

The project includes recovering the old roadbed between the sycamore and meadow by planting it with natives.

We need your help as volunteers for this Event and watering throughout the summer. The Planting Event will be on June 10th.

The main Grant project will occur on the west DOT side and consists of dramatically improving the southern half of the wetland there.



Last year we planted a pocket in the North Prairie, and it turned out phenomenal. This year looks to be a great year for pollinator plants in this section. We hope they will spread out from this area. (Might need a little weeding)



Our work has been important for monarchs and pollinators and the preservation of an extraordinary place. We're thankful for the hard work of our volunteers and all who support the nationwide and international effort to save the Monarchs. 2023 looks to be more major improvements locally and lots of education.

Regards,

Butterflybarb