

Michigan Monarch Strategy

Monarch Habitat Goals

Over the past three years the State of Michigan has worked with a diverse group of organizations to develop a Monarch and Wild Pollinator Strategy. Our goal over the next couple of years is to continue building and strengthening our partnerships while simultaneously identifying monarch and wild pollinator habitat goals for Michigan.

Current Monarch Conservation Activities

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MIDNR) and many of our conservation partners have been working on monarch-specific conservation activities since 2015. Our monarch conservation efforts to date include:

- The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative is a grass roots conservation effort that started in 2011 and has a goal of restoring, enhancing or maintaining 25,000 acres of high quality grassland habitat on public and private lands by 2021. High quality grasslands include a diverse mix of forbs and are a great source of nectar for monarchs and wild pollinators.
- MIDNR created a communication strategy in 2015 which identified four goals:
 - To educate public on monarch conservation and provide a call for action.
 - To provide a platform for students to understand monarch lifecycle and contribute to monarch conservation.
 - To trigger the conservation funding story.
 - To be a leader in Michigan Monarch Conservation.
- MIDNR participated in the planning of the October 2015 conference in Iowa to initiate the Midwest states collaborative monarch conservation effort.
- MIDNR hosted a Monarch butterfly and Wild Pollinator Summit on September 21 and 22, 2016. Over 60 people attended the summit and included leaders from 35 key partners in Michigan. The purpose of the summit was to begin drafting Michigan's Monarch and Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy.
- To help guide development of Michigan's Monarch and Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy a Steering Committee was formed, which includes the following organizations:

○ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	○ Michigan State University Extension
○ U.S. Forest Service	○ Grand Valley State University
○ Natural Resource Conservation Service	○ Michigan Department of Transportation
○ Michigan Farm Bureau	○ National Wildlife Federation
○ Michigan State University	○ Michigan Environmental Council
- MIDNR hosted a second Monarch butterfly and wild pollinator Summit on March 28, 2017 to continue development of Michigan's Monarch and Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy.
- MIDNR and USFWS partnered with USDA NRCS to establish an annual fund pool of \$100,000 for monarch habitat in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- The USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Monarch Initiative has restored over 708 acres of pollinator habitat between 2015-2018.

- USDA, in partnership with MIDNR and Pheasants Forever, began enrollment for CRP Monarch and Pheasant SAFE on June 4, 2018 to target 40,000 acres of new diverse native grassland habitat in southern Michigan.
- The USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offers a pollinator practice in Continuous CRP for pollinator/Monarch habitat.

Specific Strategies for Reaching Monarch Habitat Goals

The MIDNR has the authority under Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.36501 to 324.36507 (Part 365), to list rare flora and fauna on Michigan's list of threatened and endangered species. The Monarch is not a state listed species, but is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Michigan's State Wildlife Action Plan (2015). The MDNR manages approximately 4.6 million acres of lands throughout the state. However, to reverse the decline of the monarch and reach Michigan's goal of improving monarch habitat, many organizations will need to participate.

To facilitate coordination and cooperation amongst a diverse group of organizations, Michigan, in partnership with 35 other organizations, drafted Michigan's Monarch and Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy. Below is a summary of our goals and strategies.

Goal 1: Create, restore and enhance habitat to support the monarch butterfly and wild pollinators

- Strategy 1.1: Create, restore and enhance habitat on public land for monarchs and wild
- Strategy 1.2: Create, restore and enhance habitat on private land for monarchs and wild pollinators
- Strategy 1.3: Identify native plant producers who are propagating appropriate milkweed and forb seeds and plugs in Michigan.
- Strategy 1.4: Develop and distribute best management practices guidelines (for urban/suburban, right-of-ways, agriculture, grasslands/ open lands) to create, restore and enhance monarch and pollinator habitat

Goal 2: Enhance education and awareness about monarch butterfly and wild pollinators and their ecological and economic importance

- Strategy 2.1: Assess status of currently available educational materials, identify gaps and develop materials as necessary
- Strategy 2.2: Compile and synthesize information on pollinator habitat management strategies
- Strategy 2.3: Develop communication strategy tailored to specific audiences
 - Three potential audiences were identified (K-12 children, gardeners/landscapers, and farmers/growers) where organizations identified collaboration was feasible.
- Strategy 2.4: Develop communication tools and strategy for peer to peer practice encouragement

- Strategy 2.5: Increase awareness of the importance of monarch and pollinator conservation
- Strategy 2.6: Educate leaders, managers and decision-makers on monarch and pollinator management
- Strategy 2.7: Promote urban community gardening for pollinators and monarchs

Goal 3: Integrate monitoring and research into habitat management and education and outreach to create and implement an adaptive management process to increase overall effectiveness of monarch and wild pollinator conservation

- Strategy 3.1: Adopt common monitoring protocols to allow diverse stakeholders to contribute to a common reporting platform
- Strategy 3.2: Identify baseline and population trends for monarchs and key pollinators
- Strategy 3.3: Identify and define suitable habitat for monarchs and pollinators in Michigan
- Strategy 3.4: Inventory existing monarch and pollinator suitable habitat
- Strategy 3.5: Develop a system for assessing priorities for habitat investments Identify research priorities for Michigan
- Strategy 3.6: Identify research priorities for Michigan
- Strategy 3.7: Contribute to identifying and evaluating drivers of monarch and pollinator declines locally and nationally
- Strategy 3.8: Communicate data collection results with a diverse set of stakeholders with emphasis on peer reviewed literature

Goal 4: Review existing policies, regulations and laws and recommend changes or amendments to promote conservation of pollinator services and monarch breeding and migration

- Strategy 4.1: Identify land use policies and practices that impact pollinator conservation and management, and determine affects to stakeholders
- Strategy 4.2: Identify laws and regulations at all scales of government that impact pollinator conservation and management, and determine affects to stakeholders
- Strategy 4.3: Recommend changes or amendments to existing policies, laws and regulations to promote monarch and pollinator conservation
- Strategy 4.4: Communicate the economic value of pollinators and conservation strategies (using cost/benefit analysis) and make recommendations to policy makers
- Strategy 4.5: Develop model guidance and policies for pollinator conservation

Goal 5: Promote an active collaborative partnership between a diverse set of stakeholders to identify shared priorities for monarch and pollinator conservation

- Strategy 5.1: Identify and engage relevant stakeholders in monarch and pollinator conservation
- Strategy 5.2: Develop governing body to facilitate coordination among stakeholders to implement plan

- Strategy 5.3: Facilitate information exchange and coordinate amongst stakeholders to ensure conservation is implemented across landscapes and geographic regions
- Strategy 5.4: Determine where shared interests/conflicts lie and identify process of collaboration
- Strategy 5.5: Develop common reporting platform
- Strategy 5.6: Determine messages and how to distribute messages down through stakeholders
- Strategy 5.7: Develop process to coordinate beyond state boundaries

➤ Monarch Goals by Milkweed Stems and Estimated Acreage

2020	2025	2030	Total by 2035
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Statement Regarding Likelihood of Implementation

Michigan’s monarch conservation planning and implementation efforts to date show the strong commitment to habitat restoration held by our many partners. Future constraints may limit the ability of any partner, including federal, state, and local governments, to carry out the conservation actions that have been planned. Nonetheless, our on-going partnerships and Michigan’s Monarch and Wild Pollinator Conservation Strategy are designed to help each partner contribute meaningfully to monarch and wild pollinator conservation.