Resources for Pollinator Habitat Programs, Projects, Education and Funding in Project Wingspan States

Project Wingspan:

Landscape Enhancement for Imperiled Pollinators of the Midwest







Thank you for your interest and participation in Project Wingspan!

The Project Wingspan Team is grateful for your contributions to the conservation and improvement of monarch and other pollinator/wildlife habitat. Successful conservation of monarchs, rusty patched bumble bees, and other species of concern depend on the cumulative actions of many. Each of us, regardless of land ownership status, can play a part in ensuring the success of one of the largest conservation movements of this era – the plight of pollinators.

Project Wingspan aims to increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of pollinator habitat throughout the Midwest and Great Lakes region. One way we are achieving this goal is through the creation and management of the trained volunteer seed collection network that has made it possible for this effort to award supplementary plant materials to hundreds of projects in need. Another way we seek to improve pollinator habitat stewardship is by providing training and sharing relevant information with conservation enthusiasts and professionals. As a result, Project Wingspan partners in each state have worked together to curate a list of additional programs, projects, funding opportunities, and educational resources to create this guide that we hope will help you reach your pollinator habitat goals.

The following pages are not exhaustive and may not include every resource available in your home state. However, we hope that these resources will provide additional support to assist you in making the most of the land you manage and/or own and provide opportunities for you and your community to support the health and habitat needs of our imperiled pollinators.

Thank you for sharing your passion for pollinators with us!

- The Project Wingspan Team

Please review the following notes regarding this document before proceeding:

- Blue colored text indicates that a hyperlink is attached to that text, which will direct users to the resource referenced.
- The listing of a particular program or resource in this guide does not equate to an endorsement of the materials listed or linked.
- In no manner is this list meant to be considered a complete, all-inclusive, or comprehensive list of all existing pollinator or habitat programs and information. Please feel free to share links to relevant resources with us (<u>info@pollinator.org</u>) for future improvements of this document.

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Resources for Pollinator Habitat Programs, Projects, Education, and Funding in Project Wingspan States

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NATIONAL PROGRAMS and RESOURCES

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Federal Wildlife Agency Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- <u>Monarch Butterfly Homepage</u>
 - This website houses information and resources regarding Endangered Species Act status and conservation of the monarch butterfly
 - Assessing the status of the monarch butterfly
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program
 - Private and local/county public lands eligible
 - No cropping history required some states have minimum size for grasslands
 - 10-year agreements
 - 50-100% cost-share (depending on other partners)
 - Cost-share amounts: Vary by state. Check with your state's local agency office to inquire about possible minimum project size requirements
- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Species Profile
 - o Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Recovery Plan
 - o Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill Conservation Programs

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility.

- Private agriculture and forest lands eligible (public lands are not eligible); 1-15 year contracts.
- <u>Conservation Stewardship Program</u> (CSP)
 - Private agricultural and forest lands eligible (public lands not eligible). Provides payments for base conservation practices and specified enhancement. Payment rates vary by state. 5-year agreements. Producers must address resource concerns on all land uses on farm.
 - Base practices can be done under other programs (e.g., EQIP).
- <u>Conservation of Natural Resources Webinar Portal</u>
 - The Conservation Webinar Portal provides live and on-demand webinars on multi-discipline topics in natural resource conservation by specialists primarily for the East service area states and the Caribbean. Attendees may earn professional education credit or a training certificate by viewing most live and on-demand webinars (Certified Crop Advisors, Conservation Planner Credit, International Society of Arboriculture, The Wildlife Society).
- <u>Agricultural Conservation Easement Program</u> (ACEP)
 - ACEP helps prevent agricultural working land conversion to nonfarm activities. It also encompasses restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands on agricultural lands. Lands in production for crops, grazing, or private forests, and wetlands that have been converted to agricultural purposes, are eligible for financial assistance.

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- <u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</u> (CREP)
 - CREP targets specific state or nationally significant conservation concerns, and federal funds are supplemented with non-federal funds to address those concerns. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and establishing permanent resource conserving plant species, farmers and ranchers are paid an annual rental rate along with other federal and non-federal incentives as applicable per each CREP agreement. Participation is voluntary, and the contract period is typically 10-15 years.
 - Increased annual rental payment over regular CRP.
- <u>Conservation Reserve Program</u> (CRP)

- In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.
 - <u>CP38</u>: State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
 - <u>CP42</u>: Pollinator Habitat
 - <u>CP43</u>: Prairie Strips

Federally Produced Habitat Management Guidelines and Resources

- <u>Cover Cropping for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects</u>
- Enhancing Nest Sites for Native Bee Crop Pollinators
- Growing Milkweed for Conservation (Webinar)
- Improving Forage for Native Bee Crop Pollinators
- Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Lands
- <u>United States Forest Service Pollinator Resources</u>
- USDA-NRCS Online Publications Relating to Pollinators
- USDA-NRCS Online Portal for Insects and Pollinators
- USDA-NRCS Online Portal for Monarch Resources
- Using the 2014 Farm Bill Programs for Pollinator Conservation
- <u>Windbreaks Designed with Pollinators in Mind</u>

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Pollinator Partnership

- A non-profit 501(c)3 organization the largest in the world dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems
 - o Agricultural Technical Guides
 - o Bee Basics: An Introduction to Our Native Bees
 - o Bee Friendly Farming
 - o Bee Smart School Garden Kits

- o Ecoregional Planting Guides
- o Habitat Restoration and Management Webinar Series
- o Habitat Technical Training Virtual Workshop Series
- Honey Bee Health Grants
- o Learning Center
- o Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
- o <u>Mite-A-Thon</u>
- o Monarch Programs and Resources
- o Native Pollinator Garden Recipe Cards
- o North American Pollinator Protection Campaign
- o NRCS Pollinator Liaisons
- o Pesticide Education
- o Pollinator Week
- o Toyota Seed Grant

American Horticultural Society - Native Plant Societies

• Local Native Plant Societies may be able to provide information, resources, and funding opportunities for creating pollinator habitat in your region

The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund

- Pollinator Habitat Establishment and Management Guide
 - Guide that outlines the steps for planning, prepping, planting, and managing pollinator habitat in both prairie and agricultural settings
- Seed a Legacy Pollinator Habitat Program
 - o Eligible entities include private, public and corporate landowners
 - o Cost-share for seed mixes available (25% 100% depending on project size)
 - o Proposals close to known honey bee apiaries will rank higher
 - o Landowner is responsible for site preparation and seeding
 - 5-year contract required haying, mowing, grazing prohibited between April 1st –
 Sept 30th
 - Currently Operating in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

Bee Informed Partnership

• The Bee Informed Partnership is dedicated to working with beekeepers to better understand which management practices work best

Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils

• The Coalition's work facilitates communication among interested parties in the field of prescribed fire, provides a focal point for sharing ideas and information, and creates opportunities for prescribed fire collaboration

Journey North

• Journey North gathers migration and seasonal citizen science sightings, news and educational resources for several species including the monarch butterfly

Midwest Native Plant Society

• The Midwest Native Plant Society is a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers. Their mission is to "Advocate the vital role of native plants in the landscape to preserve ecological integrity and connect people with nature."

Monarch Joint Venture (MJV)

 The MJV is a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academic programs working together to protect the monarch migration across the United States. A variety of guides, informational pamphlets, and other resources pertaining to monarch conservation can be found on their website.

Monarch Watch

- Bring Back the Monarchs
 - Provides free milkweed seed/Monarch Waystation seed packets.

Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever (PF/QF)

- Local PF & QF Chapters
 - o Provide seed or use of seed drills

- Local chapters may also coordinate projects through the <u>Pollinator Habitat Outreach</u> <u>Program</u> to provide opportunities to involve communities (adults and youth) in local pollinator habitat projects. Through this program, PF/QF provides financial assistance and training for PF/QF chapters to plan and complete projects.
- PF & QF Farm Bill Biologists
 - PF & QF Farm Bill Biologists educate farmers and landowners about the benefits of conservation programs, as well as assist those landowners after programs have been implemented. 'One Stop Shop' for anything conservation and wildlife-related on private lands

Pollinator Stewardship Council

- The mission of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, Inc. is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impacts of pesticides
 - o Maintains list of research regarding pesticide impacts on pollinators

Project Apis m.

• Their mission is to fund and direct research to enhance the health and vitality of honey bee colonies while improving crop production. Honey bee best management practices, video education, and research archives can be found on their website

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

- SWCDs coordinate assistance from all available sources—public and private, local, state and federal—to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resources concerns
- Various Mini-Grants offered contact local SWCD office for details and availability

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

- Promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities
- Use this tool to locate a chapter near you

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (Xerces)

• Xerces provides information and guides regarding a wide range of invertebrate and habitat topics

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Conservation Blueprint

- Habitat Tip Videos
 - Videos and presentations exploring how to create and manage wildlife and pollinator habitat

STATE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS and RESOURCES

ILLINOIS

State programs, projects, resources:

- Illinois Department of Agriculture Bees and Apiaries program
 - The Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program is designed to assist beekeepers throughout Illinois with the management and protection of honeybee colonies
 - o Drift Watch Illinois Specialty Crop Site Registry
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR):
 - PDF of all grants offered by IDNR: here.
 - <u>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</u>: An enhanced version of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CREP Program is a Federal, State and Local partnership designed to retire frequently flooded and environmentally sensitive cropland to achieve restoration and long-term protection. In Illinois, landowners implement conservation practices in the eligible CREP watersheds to reduce sedimentation and nutrients, improve water quality, and to create and enhance critical habitat for fish and wildlife populations.
 - <u>Habitat Fund Grant</u>: The Illinois Habitat Fund portion involved in the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program provides for enhancing game and non-game wildlife habitat. Organized groups of volunteers from appropriate not-for-profit organizations and

governmental entities develop projects and submit applications to the IDNR to help fund their projects. The grants are competitive and are evaluated for their merit.

- o <u>Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund</u>: Grants provided for non-game wildlife protection
- IDNR Division of Education:
- Grants:
 - Habitat Fund Grant:
 - o Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant
 - o Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant
 - o Illinois Historic Sites Field Trip Grant
- Resources:
 - o Monarch Mania!
 - o Educational Resources for Pollinators!
 - o Butterfly Garden Requirements and Plant Lists
 - o Illinois Milkweeds
 - o How to Plant and Maintain Native Plants
 - o Passion for Pollinators
 - o Native Bees
 - o Native Plants
- IDNR Pollinator Resources Nurseries, brochures, external resources, etc.
 - Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant: a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (known as both LWCF and LAWCON) is a similar program with similar objectives. Both are managed in Illinois by the IDNR with concurrent application due dates, equal grant maximums and similar general rules.
- USDA <u>NRCS Illinois</u>

NGO programs, projects, resources:

- <u>Environmental Education Association of Illinois</u>: provides educational materials for formal and non-formal educators, information on Illinois events, and links to other useful environmental education websites
- <u>Grow Native!</u> Hosted in Columbia, MO by the Missouri Prairie Foundation, but serving Illinois, Grow Native! promotes conservation awareness of native plants and their effective use in urban, suburban, and rural developed landscapes
- The Field Museum in Chicago
 - Field guides covering a variety of plants and animals in the U.S. and beyond
- Illinois Monarch Project
- <u>National Great Rivers Research and Educational Center:</u> Partners with NRCS and IDNR to assist with conservation program implementation and monitoring
- <u>Severson Dells Nature Education Center</u>: Nature education at home with free nature lessons, activities and videos

Educational Resources:

- University of Illinois Extension:
 - <u>Everyday Environment Webinar Series</u>: Monthly sessions on environmental topics presented by University of Illinois Extension's Energy & Environmental Stewardship Team
 - Fall Gardening for Pollinators: Gardening in the Air Webinar
 - o Pollinator Gardens

INDIANA

State programs, projects, resources:

- Indiana Department of Agriculture
 - o Indiana Grown Program
 - o ISDA Grants
 - o Pollinator Habitat
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR):
 - o Apiary News & Information
 - o Division of Fish and Wildlife

- o Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Initiative
- <u>Habitat and Wildlife Landowner Assistance</u>: many different programs.

***To learn more about each program, contact a Private Lands Unit biologist

- <u>Game Bird Habitat Development Program</u> (GBHDP): GBHDP reimburses a portion of the expenses incurred by a landowner for developing bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, American woodcock, mourning dove, ruffed grouse or wild turkey habitat as specified in a management plan. GBHDP may reimburse up to \$330 per acre of habitat created. Financial incentives up to \$100 per acre may be available for development and maintenance of quality wildlife habitat beneficial to aforementioned gamebirds. GBHDP will reimburse landowners for habitat developments based on IDNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Habitat Development Reimbursement Rates. Annual cap limits apply to financial agreements.
- <u>Game Bird Partnership Program</u>: This program reimburses a portion of the expenses incurred by a landowner for developing bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, American woodcock, mourning dove, ruffed grouse or wild turkey habitat. DFW may contribute up to 50 percent of the reimbursable costs, not to exceed \$330 per acre. The sponsoring partnership organization must also contribute funds, materials or labor. Annual cap limits apply to financial agreements.
- Wildlife Habitat Cost-Share Program (WHCSP): This program reimburses a portion of the expenses incurred by a landowner for developing wildlife habitat as specified in a management plan. The program will reimburse the landowner for habitat development projects based on DFW Habitat Development Reimbursement Rates. Annual cap limits apply to financial agreements. Habitat improvements developed through this program must be maintained as specified in the management plan for a minimum of three years. The owner must control at least 5 acres of land and must maintain practice for a minimum of 3 years.
 - o Indiana Private Lands Access Program (IPLA)
 - o Pollinator Conservation
 - o Pollinator Habitat Development and Enhancement
- USDA NRCS Indiana
- USFWS Indiana Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program
 - Cost share possibly available on native pollinator, upland prairie, savanna, and early successional habitat within the



USFWS PFW Program focus areas throughout Indiana (see focus areas identified on map)

NGO programs, projects, resources

- Indiana Native Plant Society:
 - List of Invasive-Free Plant Sellers and Designers
- Indiana Prescribed Fire Council
- Indiana Wildlife Federation:
 - <u>Certified Wildlife Habitat</u>: Are you interested in making your backyard an attractive haven for wildlife? Want to grow native plants on your land and attract native animals—pollinating insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and more? Then the Certified Wildlife Habitat[™] certification program is right for you! There are over 200,000 Certified Wildlife Habitats[™] in the United States today.
 - o <u>Monarchs</u>
 - o Native Plants of Indiana
- <u>The Beekeepers of Indiana</u>

Educational Resources:

- Indiana University (IU):
 - Pollinator Garden: Hilltop Gardens
 - <u>Beekeepers</u>
 - Department of Biology
 - "Beekeepers, researchers, and state lawmakers agree: We need the bees"
- Purdue University:
 - Indiana Yard and Garden Purdue Consumer Horticulture
 - Gardening for Pollinators
 - Purdue Extension Entomology
 - Educational Outreach
 - Pollinator Protection Resources
 - <u>The Purdue Bee Lab Bee Hive</u>

MICHIGAN

State programs, projects, resources:

- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD):
 - Managed Pollinator Protection Plan
- Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Environment
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR):
 - All Grants
 - Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP): To address strategic issues of prevention, detection, eradication and control for both terrestrial invasive species (TIS) and aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Michigan
 - Wildlife Habitat Grant Program: To enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game species habitat in support of specific goals from the MDNR Wildlife Division's strategic plan, "Guiding Principles and Strategies The GPS," specifically GPS Goal 2 Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations in a changing environment
 - <u>Landowners Guide to Prairie Restoration</u>: Landscape Perspective, Importance of prairies, Prairie identification, Implementation and Maintenance of Prairie enhancement and restoration
 - Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI): The MPRI is a conservation initiative to restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations, and hunting opportunity on private and public lands. It will accomplish this through public-private cooperatives of 10,000 acres or more that improve habitat for pheasants and other wildlife on a landscape level. This service is provided free of charge through the partners of this initiative.
 - Pollinator Health Tips
- USDA NRCS Michigan
- USFWS Michigan Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
 - Cost share: Native pollinator habitat, prairies, savannas, pine or oak barrens throughout Lower Peninsula of Michigan in USFWS priority focus areas– (see focus areas identified on map).



NGO programs, projects, resources, places to see native prairies and savannas:

<u>Wildlife Section</u>: Provide private landowners with a wide range of wildlife information, assistance, and program delivery to address wildlife habitat and species management. Some Districts also provide an Invasive Species Coordinator, who helps educate local communities on how to prevent or manage unwelcome "visitors" looking to take root or roost.

Educational Resources:

- Michigan State University (MSU):
 - College of Natural Science Michigan Pollinator Initiative:
 - Large-scale Pollinator Planting Resources
 - Michigan Conservation Stewards Program
 - Michigan Master Naturalist Program
 - Michigan Natural Features Inventory
 - Pollinator Champions free online course
 - Programs
 - Extension:
 - Agriculture
 - <u>"Ask-an-Expert"</u>
 - Native Plants and Ecosystem Services: Using Michigan native plants to produce win-win situations for agriculture, communities, and the environment. Instruction for planting and maintenance of native plants, teaching tools, plant search tool, regional native plant lists and many publications and useful links
 - <u>Natural Resources</u>
 - Varroa Mite Testing Kit
- <u>Jamieson Lab</u>: Oakland University research, education, and community engagement projects that aim to support biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable agriculture

OHIO

State programs, projects, resources:

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources:
 - o Flowering Plants in Ohio
 - o <u>Grants</u>
 - o Landowner Habitat Management
 - o Stewardship & Citizen Science
- USDA <u>NRCS Ohio</u>

NGO programs, projects, resources:

- Monarch Wings Across Ohio (MWAO):
 - Through 3 years of on the ground research with partner sites throughout NE Ohio,
 P2 developed a series of guides (farm, gardens, rights-of-way, and corporate land) to
 empower Ohioans with the knowledge and tools to make a difference for monarchs
 on lands that they own, work, or manage. Free habitat creation guides, and other
 resources can be found through the link above.
- <u>The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio</u>
- <u>Ohio Lepidopterists</u>: A membership organization which provides the following programs to their members and the public: Annual meeting in winter with guest speakers on a variety of topics; A Butterfly Monitoring workshop in the spring; Field trips in flying months with our Butterfly Observation Group (BOG); ID day and fall meeting late in the year; Newsletter 4 times a year.
- Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI): Members of OPHI work together through this statewide initiative to provide pollinator conservation awareness through education and outreach, and to provide technical assistance for pollinator habitat establishment to all that have an interest in pollinators and protecting our food supply
- Ohio State Beekeepers Association
 - o OEC Action Fund

Educational Resources:

<u>Cleveland Pollinator and Native Plant Symposium</u>

- The Ohio State University
 - College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
 - <u>Bee Lab</u>: Education, research and outreach related to honey bees, wild bees and other pollinators
 - Honey Bee Resources
 - <u>Native Bees</u>: Native Bee ID, Nesting: Bee Blocks, Condos and Tunnel Nests, Ohio Bee ID Guide
 - <u>Research</u>
 - <u>Resources</u>
 - Workshops and Short Courses
 - Ohio Pollinator Health, Protection and Conservation Plan
 - <u>Department of Entomology</u>
 - Extension
 - Department of Horticulture and Crop Science
 - How to Identify and Enhance Ohio's Wild Bees in Your Landscape