



The Great Monarch Migration

It takes 2 or 3 generations of butterflies to migrate from the mountains of Michoacán, Mexico, to the prairies of Illinois in the spring months. By late summer, a 'super generation' emerges, equipped to travel an estimated 2,500 miles back to Mexico for overwintering. But monarch migration is being threatened, and it is estimated that populations have decreased more than 90% since the 1990s. The Sierra Club Monarch Campaign supports Illinois' commitment to providing the milkweed resources monarchs require for breeding and the prairie flowers they rely on for subsistence during their migratory journey.

Join the Super Generation to Save the Monarch!

WHO ARE THE MONARCHS?

Monarchs are important pollinators. responsible for fertilizing seeds, berries, fruits, and wildflowers that form the foundation of the food chain. This amounts to 35% of world food crop: that's one out of every three bites of food we eat! Monarchs themselves, as well as their eggs and larvae, are also an important food sources for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

ILLINOIS SIERRA CLUB MONARCH CAMPAIGN

Illinois Sierra Club has joined the Illinois Monarch Project in support of the statewide initiative to conserve the breeding and feeding habitat of the monarch butterfly and other regional pollinators. Join us in fostering a culture of conservation that ensures flourishing pollinator habitat across diverse urban and rural landscapes in Illinois.

JOIN THE SUPER GENERATION TO SAVE THE MONARCHS

Plant milkweed and other native plants to provide food, water, and cover for pollinators and local wildlife.

Reduce use of herbicides, insecticides, and/or pesticides near potential habitat areas. Support organically grown food.

Advocate to save grasslands and natural areas.

Spread the Word! Share information about the Illinois Monarch Action Plan on social media (tag #ILMonarchProject).

Encourage local municipalities to sign the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Limit areas of mown turf and manage invasive plants that threaten native vegetation.

Host an educational event about monarch butterfly conservation.

Fight to stop climate change: switch to renewable energy sources.

Join local efforts to protect monarchs and their habitats.
Join your local Sierra Club Monarch Team.

HABITAT LOSS AND PESTICIDE USE

The decline of monarchs and other pollinators is due to a number of factors:

- Development and agricultural land conversion in the United States consumes habitats for monarchs and other wildlife at a rate of 6,000 acres EVERY DAY.
- Excessive and inappropriate use of herbicides have resulted in the loss of 100 million acres in recent years, including significant portions of summer breeding areas and over-wintering grounds.
- Pesticide use, disease, the introduction of invasive species, and increased mowing have all contributed to the decline.

Habitat destruction and pesticide use has also resulted in the loss of crucial plants, such as milkweed, which are the only plants where monarchs lay their eggs and the only plant Monarch caterpillars eat. Many municipalities have even classified milkweed as a noxious or exotic plant despite it being native to the region.

PRAIRIE STATE MONARCHS



1975: Monarchs named state insect.

2016: Illinois Chapter joins the Illinois Monarch Project.

2017: HB2568 designates milkweed as state wildflower and HB685 prevents classification as a noxious or exotic weed.

2020: Illinois Depts. of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Transportation and Environmental Protection sign the Illinois Monarch Project Action Plan, committing Illinois to the goal of adding 150 million milkweed stems to the Illinois landscape by 2038.



To learn more and to get involved, visit:
sierraclub.org/illinois/monarch-butterflies
facebook.com/Illinois.monarchs



SIERRA CLUB
ILLINOIS CHAPTER