

Action Plan Framework

Summary of Goals and actions for the Natural Lands Sector

GOAL I: Create an active collaborative of diverse stakeholders to coordinate the development and implementation of conservation strategies and ensure the survival of monarchs and their successful migration through Illinois

Actions:

1. Host statewide summits to increase engagement and coordinate implementation of the Illinois Monarch Project Action Plan.
2. Hold regular meetings to coordinate IMP implementation.
3. Maintain a webpage documenting and tracking IMP implementation.

GOAL II: Communicate the ecological, economic, and cultural value of monarch butterfly habitat to build an army of conservation stewards across Illinois

Actions:

1. Promote Route 66 Corridor as showcase initiative of habitat restoration and enhancement across a variety of landscapes from Chicago to St. Louis with signs and social media.
2. Provide schools with monarch and pollinator education materials and training that meet learning standards.
3. Develop and distribute informational material on pollinators to nature centers.
4. Enable students to connect with nature through monarch and pollinator habitat field trips.
5. Host or contribute to special events featuring Monarch and pollinator information.
6. Implement a social media campaign to inform and inspire citizens to do Monarch conservation.
7. Develop and distribute signage for pollinator gardens to advertise and normalize pollinator habitat.
8. Establish the Illinois Monarch license plate to promote and support monarch conservation.
9. Create and maintain pollinator gardens around public places.

GOAL III: Inform conservation strategies using the best available science on monarch butterfly health and habitat.

Actions:

1. Facilitate meetings of the science committee to assess monarch status, trends, and threats.
2. Develop and update best management practices for pollinator habitat establishment and management.
3. Determine the impacts of land management practices on monarch habitat on natural land.
4. Monitor trends in monarch habitat quality on natural lands across the state.
5. Monitor the impacts of chemicals and other threats to pollinators and their habitat.
6. Create curriculum or training materials for land managers and other decision makers to encourage adoption of best management practices for pollinators and the use of adaptive management.
7. Conduct targeted trainings for stakeholders on pollinator conservation strategies, best management practices, and adaptive management.
8. Participate in regional and national collaboratives focused on pollinator conservation.

GOAL IV: Conserve, enhance, and restore habitat on public and private lands to support populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinator species by adding 150,000,000 stems of milkweed embedded in appropriate nectar sources onto the landscape by 2038.

Actions:

1. Collect and distribute locally sourced pollinator seed mixes to be used in restorations and enhancements that meet pollinator needs.
2. Establish new pollinator habitat using best management practices.
3. Restore and enhance existing pollinator habitat using best management practices, such as interseeding, reduced mowing, prescribed fire, and invasive/exotic species control.
4. Protect pollinator habitat from conflicting uses through acquisition or easement.
5. Develop and advocate for policies and programs that support pollinator habitat conservation.

GOAL V: Standardize data collection and monitoring for monarch butterfly habitat.

Actions:

1. Establish 2014 baseline habitat quality and quantity.
2. Encourage participation in monarch monitoring through citizen science.
3. Track IMP implementation progress and summarize monarch butterfly response and report findings every five years in a report and on the webpage.
4. Report Illinois' contribution to monarch conservation to regional and national partners.