The Monarch Joint Venture (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.

Our mission is to protect monarchs and their migration by collaborating with partners to deliver habitat conservation, education, and science across the United States.

Our vision is thriving monarch populations that sustain the monarch migration into perpetuity and serve as a flagship for the conservation of other plants and animals.

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Overview
Projects funded through the MJV Partner Grant Program address priorities as outlined in the Monarch Conservation Implementation Plan. The plan identifies and prioritizes monarch conservation actions in the U.S. that will help restore sustainable monarch butterfly populations.

The key principles, goals, and action strategies serve as an important starting point for monarch conservation partners to prioritize and organize their internal strategies for this work. These high-level strategies are further developed at the individual, program, or organizational level. The MJV Partner Grant Program exists to support collaborative and innovative partner projects that best align with and enact the Monarch Conservation Implementation Plan.

The sections of the plan are organized around the four pillars of the MJV’s work:
- Habitat
- Education
- Science
- Partnership

The MJV and its partners have engaged in various monarch conservation projects in addition to this list; the projects listed here are only those that the MJV has directly provided funding for as a part of the Partner Grant Program for 2022-2023. Current year awards were made possible thanks to support from the U.S. Forest Service International Programs.
2022 Awards

**Habitat**

**Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund**  
*Seed a Legacy ($20,000)*  
The Seed a Legacy pollinator program is designed to improve pollinator health and habitat. This unique program provides high-quality pollinator habitat seed mixtures specifically designed for each state and region, and has expanded to include twelve states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**Metro Blooms**  
*Lawns to Legumes ($40,000)*  
With MJV funding, Lawns to Legumes will incorporate specific monarch conservation elements in their educational programming, technical resources, and additional individual support grants. These efforts will facilitate the installation of monarch habitat and forage plantings within the North Central region, a critical area for monarch butterflies that migrate south to overwintering sites in Mexico each fall.

**Native Plant Society of Texas**  
*I-35 Monarch Waystation Rest Stop Project & Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Garden Grant Program ($10,000)*  
Funding will help replace many native plants at I-35 rest stop waystations that were lost to an unusual winter storm in 2020. The waystations include hundreds of native nectar plants and milkweeds, and volunteers who maintain them also help educate the public when onsite. Funding will also provide a boost to NPSOT Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Garden Grant Program.

**Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative**  
*Restoration of Stopover Habitat and Waystations Across Ohio ($9,960)*  
In 2022, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) will work to establish 50 acres of monarch habitat in the state of Ohio. OPHI has shovel-ready habitat projects and commitments from private landowners, parks, soil and water conservation districts, and municipalities.

**Xerces Society**  
* Recovering Monarch Butterflies in California: Habitat Restoration at Overwintering Sites and the First Migratory Stopover Zone ($20,000)*  
Likely to be the most effective short-term strategy to prevent further decline of the western monarch population, Xerces Society seeks to restore monarch butterfly habitat in early-season breeding areas in California. Their goal includes distributing 150 Monarch and Pollinator Habitat kits over the next two years, with 23 kits being supported from the MJV Partner Grant Program.

**Pollinator Protection Fund of Laguna Beach**  
*Monarch Butterfly Habitat Across the City of Laguna Beach ($5,264)*  
Pollinator Protection Fund of Laguna Beach will be adding a second community garden to their habitat creation resume with the help of funding from the MJV Partner Grant Program. Nearly 500 square feet of monarch and pollinator habitat will be created in Bluebird Park in Laguna Beach, a busy park in the community that is surrounded by eucalyptus trees.

**Sand County Foundation**  
*Engaging Youth Through High School Habitat Grants ($48,000)*  
The Sand County Foundation has been providing grants to high school educators through their Pollinator Habitat Grant Program since 2017. The grant program helps raise awareness and improve critical thinking about the convergence of food production, wildlife habitat and water quality among youth considering careers in agricultural and environmental sciences. MJV funding will provide Pollinator Habitat Grants to 16 high schools over the next two years, supporting 40% of SCF’s program goal to support a total of 20 schools per year in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Texas.
**Education**

**Cibolo Center for Conservation**  
*Monarch Outreach Initiative ($10,000)*  
Cibolo will be working with teachers and students from three schools in San Antonio and Texas Hill Country to create certified monarch waystations on the school campuses. Additionally, Cibolo will partner closely with MUV education staff to provide a monarch teacher training program for the three participating schools, and continue to build a professional development program adding teacher training cohorts year after year.

**California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**  
*Enabling California RCDs to Engage With Schools in Western Monarch Conservation Through Classroom Visits and Habitat Restoration Projects ($49,032)*  
Funding will support the development of age-appropriate lessons by MUV partner Pollinator Posse, as well as initial training of four RCDs with strong education programs to pilot the program in local elementary schools. Feedback on the lessons and outreach approach will be incorporated into final materials, and then lessons will be made available to the entire RCD community to be able to seek funding and implement the program in their counties.

**Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin**  
*Strategic Monarch Conservation Outreach Initiative ($6,000)*  
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will develop cohesive communications messaging to reach out to participants, supporters, and influencers to inspire people and organizations to take action to bring back the monarch butterfly. A part-time outreach specialist will create and distribute communications content for targeted audiences, leveraging and building from the MUV’s resources and making them specific to the audiences and strategies identified for Wisconsin.

**Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History**  
*Monarch & Pollinator Education Programs ($25,680)*  
The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH) is a regional hub for western monarch conservation interpretation and community science in California. Perfectly positioned on important overwintering and early breeding habitat for western monarchs, the museum plays a central role in providing resources for schools, and training and coordinating docents for the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary. PGMNH will develop three education programs for Pre-K and elementary students including full-day teacher education workshops prior to the start of the monarch overwintering season. Additionally, funding will help expand their existing docent training and incorporate current monarch and pollinator research into their materials.

**Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever**  
*Milkweed in the Classroom & Pollinator Habitat Outreach Program ($40,000)*  
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever (PF/QF) have been spreading awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators through two successful education programs, the Pollinator Habitat Outreach Program (PHOP), and the Milkweed in the Classroom (MIC) program. Funding will help bring the PHOP program to 1,500 youth, 300 adults, and create a total of 50 pollinator projects resulting in at least 15 acres of habitat. They will also distribute 60 MIC kits resulting in 1,500 students educated and 2,400 new native milkweed stems across the landscape.

**Wild Ones**  
*Wild for Monarchs Program ($4,000)*  
To encourage their chapters and members’ continuing role in monarch conservation in 2022 and 2023, MUV funding will be used to update the Wild for Monarchs program content. Updates to the program’s webpage, as well as enhancements to a 60-minute Wild for Monarchs presentation will include new photography, graphics, and current data on monarch population trends. Wild Ones will also publish four monarch conservation-related articles in their quarterly publication, The Wild Ones Journal.
Pollinator Partnership
Project Wingspan: Agricultural Lands, Landowner Training Enhancement ($9,992)
The Pollinator Partnership aims to double the impact of its successful Project Wingspan: Agricultural Lands Landowner Training Enhancement program by offering the training to twice the number of people. MJV funding will help provide educational assistance to landowners through four in-person classroom and field trainings in 2022 and 2023, that include tailored education materials, and follow-up with participants to understand how the knowledge they gained has been applied, and to continue to deliver resources long after the project period is complete.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum
Monarch Citizen Science: The Whole is Greater than the Sum of the Parts ($14,825)
With funding support from the MJV, the University of Wisconsin Arboretum will work to promote ongoing communication about monarch community science, provide a structure for cross-pollination across multiple projects, and develop models for training and recruitment. UW-Arboretum will create news updates for monarch community science project coordinators, assess the need for and create cross-program resources, and will conduct six Monarch Larva Monitoring Project/Journey North trainings by the end of the project period.

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies & Washington State University
Western Monarch Mystery Challenge Year 3 ($40,548)
Solving the mystery of where western monarchs spend the spring is central to restoring the phenomenon of monarch migration in the West. For the past two years, Washington State University researchers have been engaging California communities via social media to help them solve the mystery. Targeting areas within 50 miles of the wintering sites, and north of Santa Barbara, over 300 sightings of wild adult monarchs were reported in the first year, with sightings doubling in year two. Funding from the MJV ensures the program will run for its third year, and is already underway and receiving sightings.

Pollinator Posse
Community Science Education Project ($7,395)
With a strong social media campaign in 2020, the Posse rounded up a host of community observers to collect monarch population observations. They will begin to transition many of their observers and reporters over to the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project (MLMP). Funding from the MJV will help them provide training for volunteers on MLMP protocols in 2022, and promote the use of the MLMP, Southwest Monarch Study tagging program (if approved), and Project Monarch Health.

Desert Botanical Garden
Monarch and Milkweed Phenology in Arizona ($34,480)
Little is known about the overwintering activity of monarchs that call Arizona home, but with help of community scientists over the next two years, the Desert Botanical Garden will be collecting data to help them determine the timing of monarch presence throughout the state. Leveraging existing programs for milkweed and nectar plant distribution, DBG will engage interested community members to collect data on monarch presence.