Monarch butterflies are best known for their mass migration from Canada to Mexico—sometimes traveling up to 3000 miles. Each spring and fall they work their way across North America searching for milkweed to lay their eggs on and nectaring sources to fuel up for their journey. Along the route, the monarch butterfly plays the critical role of a pollinator and ensures our flowers come back next year. Many pollinators, including the monarch butterfly, are in trouble.

Monarch populations have decreased by over 80 percent during the past twenty years. Part of this population loss can be attributed to the drastic decline of monarch habitat—milkweed host plants and nectar food sources—throughout North America. Together, we can save the monarch and other pollinators that also benefit from flowering resources by restoring prairie and wetland habitat, planting natives in our gardens, and protecting the natural spaces that already exist, but it will take everyone to do so. It requires an “all hands on deck” conservation strategy that relies on every land use type to provide monarch habitat.

The role cities can play in monarch recovery—and in providing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife—is more important than previously recognized. In fact, a large metropolitan region such as Chicago has over 16 million stems of milkweed already on the ground, and through strategic outreach with different land users, that number could jump to over 38 million stems. While the prospects for adding more milkweed to the landscape will vary from city to city, the potential for cities to make a difference in monarch conservation is apparent.

Multiple Landscape Conservation Cooperatives partnered with the Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum in Chicago and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to answer key questions about how best to conserve monarchs in urban areas located along the monarch's migration flyway. The partnership worked closely with four urban areas along the central flyway: Austin, Chicago, Minneapolis-St.Paul, and Kansas City. Within each urban area information was collected about, the amount and types of potential habitat (from residential backyards to turf-dominated corporate campuses), how much of this green space is likely to be converted, and best practices for engaging different stakeholder groups to increase the overall amount of habitat. This information was compiled to create mapping tools and an Urban Monarch Conservation Guidebook.

Products

General how to:
- Urban Monarch Conservation Guidebook

Social Science and Outreach:
- Social Survey and Interview Guide (English and Spanish)
- Best practices by land use type
- Guide to creating monarch habitat in your Midwestern garden

Geospatial tools:
- Urban Milkweed Baseline Tool
- Urban Scenario Planning Tool

Biological Sampling Protocols:
- Metro transects methodology and sampling protocol
- Natural areas sampling protocol
We have Our locality has a number of maps (or know someone who is organized, and comfort with using familiarity with how city space is something for monarchs, some Guidebook is a motivation to do areas. All you need to use the pollinator-

Figure from Guidebook: A monarch butterfly "supply chain": What does it take to "produce" a monarch butterfly? Flows of information and materials, mediated by groups and individuals, make monarch conservation actions possible. These flows and exchanges are shaped by the individual and cultural values, perceptions, and beliefs that people bring to their participation in networks. Values, perceptions, and beliefs—which are particularly diverse in cities—motivate people to act on behalf of the monarch. People must also have the power to make decisions about a given piece of land in order to take action to make it more habitable for monarchs.

For more information https://tallgrassprairielcc.org/issue/monarch-butterflies

http://fieldmuseum.org/monarchs

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