



# Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators: 2023 Report

## FUNDING PARTNERS

- Bayer Crop Science
- Danone North America
- Shell USA
- The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management



Monarch butterfly

Since 2015, the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund has awarded approximately **\$23.8 million** to 140 projects that are helping conserve and recover the imperiled monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Grantees have matched this investment with an additional **\$38.9 million**, for a total on-the-ground impact of more than **\$62.7 million**.

## MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATORS CONSERVATION FUND: 2023 REPORT

The monarch butterfly is one of the most iconic species in North America, and its annual migration cycle is one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the world. However, during the past 20 years, the monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 80 percent throughout much of its range. Pollinators such as the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee are also experiencing population declines. Habitat loss is one of the primary factors challenging pollinators.

In response to this threat, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) established the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund in 2015 to protect, conserve and increase habitat for pollinators. Partners include Bayer Crop Science, Danone North America, Shell USA, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The program invests in projects that improve the availability of high-quality habitat, increase the capacity needed to expand conservation efforts into the future, and support implementation of technical assistance to engage private landowners with pollinator conservation practices on working lands. By leveraging the resources and expertise of its partners in this way, the program is helping to reverse recent population declines and ensure the survival of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

*(continued)*

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005



# NFWF

## Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund



**140**

Projects funded

**3,100**

Pounds of native milkweed seed collected

**1,700**

Workshops or meetings hosted

**390,000**

Acres restored or enhanced

**1.1 million** Native milkweed seedlings propagated

Since 2015, the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund has supported projects that address the following three conservation priorities to restore populations of at-risk pollinators:



Green sweat bee

**INCREASING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HABITAT**

The goal of this conservation strategy is to create and sustain a connected patchwork of pollinator habitat to support at-risk pollinators and the monarch butterfly. It emphasizes restoring and enhancing land to support ample milkweed and nectar plants as well as overwintering habitat. This strategy also seeks to ensure adequate supply of native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seeds or plugs for habitat restoration efforts.

**PROJECT EXAMPLE: Ecoregional Seed Program for Monarchs across Eastern Broadleaf Forest**

NFWF Award Amount . . . . . \$150,000  
 Matching Funds . . . . . \$485,080  
 Total Project . . . . . \$635,080

The Pollinator Partnership established a seed collection program for the Eastern Broadleaf Forest and provided technical assistance to public and private land managers in five states. The project collected 60 pounds of milkweed seed and propagated 11,000 seedlings to support the improvement of 27,000 acres of monarch habitat.

**COORDINATION, CAPACITY BUILDING**

The goal of this conservation strategy is to increase organizational capacity and coordination among organizations, states, and regions engaged in pollinator conservation. Grant funding supports work to develop regional strategies and plans, build capacity and expertise, maximize information exchange, and distribute information about on-the-ground conservation practices.

**PROJECT EXAMPLE: Developing a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy**

NFWF Award Amount . . . . . \$144,750  
 Matching Funds . . . . . \$170,000  
 Total Project . . . . . \$314,750

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies led a regional coordination process to develop a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy for states located along the eastern monarch migratory corridor. The project established common habitat and population goals, as well as strategies and monitoring protocols to be implemented at the state level.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE WORKING LANDS**

This conservation strategy supports implementation of technical assistance to increase the number of private landowners engaged in pollinator conservation practices on private working lands.

**PROJECT EXAMPLE: Using Technical Assistance to Increase Resource Conservation District Effort for Monarchs**

NFWF Award Amount . . . . . \$300,000  
 Matching Funds . . . . . \$800,000  
 Total Project . . . . . \$1,100,000

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts provided technical assistance on private working lands by hiring a statewide Monarch Project Coordinator and a Technical Assistance Trainer. The project developed 120 pollinator conservation plans, improved 2,391 acres of habitat, coordinated 110 meetings and workshops, and reached 900 landowners.

## MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATORS GRANTEES

|  |             |  |                       |
|--|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| Alternare, A.C. . . . .  | \$50,000    | Pheasants Forever . . . . .  | \$2,025,401           |
| American Bird Conservancy . . . . .                                    | \$498,265   | Pollinator Partnership . . . . .   | \$1,532,954           |
| Anoka Conservation District . . . . .                                  | \$250,000   | Practical Farmers of Iowa . . . . .                                      | \$175,000             |
| Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum . . . . .                                 | \$92,787    | Prairie Pothole Partners . . . . .                                       | \$50,000              |
| Audubon International. . . . .   | \$150,000   | Prairie Rivers of Iowa Resource<br>Conservation and Development. . . . . | \$96,880              |
| Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. . . . .                       | \$190,983   | Pronatura Noreste A.C. . . . .   | \$50,000              |
| Borderlands Restoration Network . . . . .                              | \$200,000   | Regents of the University of Minnesota . . . . .                         | \$222,392             |
| Bureau of Land Management. . . . .                                     | \$86,916    | Resource Conservation and<br>Development for Northeast Iowa. . . . .     | \$165,000             |
| Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City . . . . .                     | \$228,107   | Sand County Foundation. . . . .  | \$98,768              |
| California Association of Resource<br>Conservation Districts. . . . .  | \$300,000   | Santa Monica Mountains Fund. . . . .                                     | \$174,901             |
| Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District. . . . .                  | \$250,000   | Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians . . . . .                             | \$175,000             |
| Compatible Lands Foundation. . . . .                                   | \$235,992   | Southwest Monarch Study. . . . .   | \$88,950              |
| Dakota County . . . . .  | \$150,000   | Superior Watershed Partnership . . . . .                                 | \$59,320              |
| Driftless Area Land Conservancy. . . . .                               | \$241,255   | Texan by Nature . . . . .  | \$411,959             |
| Ducks Unlimited. . . . .   | \$136,879   | Texas Discovery Gardens. . . . .   | \$125,000             |
| Field Museum of Natural History . . . . .                              | \$147,988   | Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board . . . . .                  | \$480,000             |
| Friends of Crex. . . . .   | \$199,576   | The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund. . . . .                              | \$175,000             |
| Friends of Red Rock Canyon . . . . .                                   | \$109,208   | The Board of Trustees<br>of the University of Illinois . . . . .         | \$315,265             |
| Friends of the Mississippi River . . . . .                             | \$233,250   | The Conservation Foundation . . . . .                                    | \$247,942             |
| Friends of the Neal Smith NWR . . . . .                                | \$87,000    | The Learning Center<br>at the Euclaw Butterfly Farm . . . . .            | \$340,939             |
| Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District. . . . .                     | \$175,000   | The Nature Conservancy. . . . .  | \$943,138             |
| Golden Sands Resource Conservation<br>and Development Council. . . . . | \$250,000   | The Prairie Enthusiasts . . . . .  | \$245,518             |
| Grassland Water District . . . . .                                     | \$173,040   | The Wetlands Initiative . . . . .  | \$166,497             |
| Great River Greening . . . . .   | \$195,916   | The Xerces Society<br>for Invertebrate Conservation . . . . .            | \$525,964             |
| Houston Wilderness . . . . .   | \$485,244   | Transition Habitat Conservancy . . . . .                                 | \$230,041             |
| Ice Age Trail Alliance . . . . .                                       | \$175,000   | Trinity County Resource Conservation District . . . . .                  | \$233,683             |
| Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. . . . .                              | \$1,341,595 | TreePeople . . . . .   | \$249,610             |
| Jo Daviess Conservation Fund . . . . .                                 | \$83,640    | Utah State University. . . . .   | \$210,000             |
| Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition . . . . .                               | \$125,000   | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service . . . . .                                 | \$1,167,663           |
| Katy Prairie Conservancy. . . . .                                      | \$250,000   | University of Kansas Center for Research . . . . .                       | \$248,006             |
| Keystone Policy Center . . . . .                                       | \$30,000    | U.S. Forest Service . . . . .  | \$205,086             |
| La Cruz Habitat Projection Project . . . . .                           | \$60,000    | Walker Basin Conservancy . . . . .                                       | \$160,195             |
| Lake County Forest Preserve District . . . . .                         | \$135,000   | Western Association<br>of Fish and Wildlife Agencies . . . . .           | \$120,000             |
| Lomakatsi Restoration Project . . . . .                                | \$193,785   | Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. . . . .                       | \$169,796             |
| Midwest Association of<br>Fish and Wildlife Agencies . . . . .         | \$300,951   |  |                       |
| Missouri Botanic Garden. . . . .                                       | \$154,500   |  |                       |
| Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation. . . . .                     | \$494,410   |  |                       |
| Monarch Joint Venture . . . . .  | \$1,179,291 |  |                       |
| National Audubon Society . . . . .                                     | \$437,409   |  |                       |
| National Wildlife Federation . . . . .                                 | \$566,000   |  |                       |
| National Wild Turkey Federation . . . . .                              | \$99,999    |  |                       |
| Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. . . . .                     | \$100,000   |  |                       |
| Nature Conservancy of Canada . . . . .                                 | \$80,000    |  |                       |
| Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. . . . .                            | \$332,518   |  |                       |
| North American Butterfly Association. . . . .                          | \$199,271   |  |                       |
| Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas . . . . .                       | \$344,080   |  |                       |
| Pathfinders Resource<br>Conservation and Development. . . . .          | \$432,870   |  |                       |
|  |             | <b>Total Pollinator Fund Grant Awards (2015 - 2023) . . .</b>            | <b>\$23.8 million</b> |
|  |             | <b>Total Grantee Matching Contributions . . . . .</b>                    | <b>\$38.9 million</b> |
|  |             | <b>Total Conservation Impact . . . . .</b>                               | <b>\$62.7 million</b> |