

Resolution No. 2017-07
Wheaton Park District
Authorizing the Executive Director to Increase and Improve
Available Habitat for Monarch Butterflies
And other Native Pollinators

WHEREAS, the Wheaton Park District, DuPage County, Illinois (the “District”), is a local unit of government and a duly organized and existing park district created under the laws of the State of Illinois, and is now operation under the provisions of the Park District Code of the State of Illinois, as supplemented and amended; and

WHEREAS, the District is recognized and applauded for its leadership in its Core Values of environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability, and for its efforts to promote natural resource management and promote sustainability initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the District minimizes the use pesticides and fertilizers for maintaining Park-owned open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the District land, located in northeastern Illinois, has long been within what the United States Department of Agriculture (the “USDA”) has called the Midwestern “summer recharge zone” on the annual Monarch butterflies’ migration route from Mexico to Canada; and

WHEREAS, native milkweeds are the sole source of food for monarch caterpillars; and

WHEREAS, Illinois designated the iconic monarch butterfly as the official state insect in 1975 as the result of lobbying by Illinois schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies point to the rapid decline of the monarch butterfly due to the loss of milkweed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, resulting from development, land management practices, and chemically-aided agriculture in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the decline of pollinators, including the North American monarch, which serves as an iconic species, has potential negative consequences for natural ecosystems as well as for human food production, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently studying the species to determine if it should be listed under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, on a national level, conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have undertaken efforts to restore and enhance milkweeds and other nectar-producing plants to help restore monarch habitat in open spaces, suburban and urban gardens, and other locations; and

WHEREAS, because there are many different species of milkweed in the U.S., it is important to recognize that only native milkweed species are vital to the restoration and survival of the monarch habitat in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Foundation, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Greater DuPage Wild Ones, and River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club are encouraging communities to plant native milkweed and valuable nectar plants where appropriate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheaton Park District as follows:

SECTION 1: The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and made a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein.

SECTION 2: The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Executive Director to increase and improve available habitat for Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators through the following actions:

- Increase plantings of milkweed and native pollinator plants on the Park District lands to the Monarch Waystation criteria of Monarch Watch.
- Install signage near Monarch-friendly plantings about Monarch butterflies and other native pollinators and their habitat in order to increase public awareness and education.
- Provide education on the importance of Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, how to design a Monarch Waystation, and how to register with the Monarch Watch.
- Refrain from the use of pesticides, including herbicides, in areas with milkweed during Monarch butterfly breeding periods, and avoid the use of insecticides, like neonicotinoids, in milkweed areas at all times.
- Consider creating and certifying the signage with at least one new Monarch Waystation on the Park District owned or leased land that meets the Monarch Watch certification criteria.

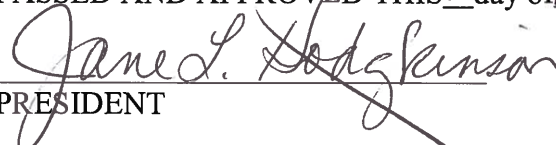
SECTION 3: This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and approval by a majority of the Board of Commissioners.

AYES:

NAYS: ABSENT:

NOT VOTING:

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 19 day of April, 2017.



PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



SECRETARY