

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Join the **Rochester Pollinators** and the **Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce** at the Rochester Municipal Park to officially acknowledge the completion of the expansion of the Butterfly Garden with newly installed informational signage about the Monarch butterfly for the Rochester Municipal Park Butterfly Garden celebration.

The Rochester Municipal Park Butterfly Garden was first planted in 2019, with an addition of 600 square feet in 2021. Marilyn Trent, the founder of the Rochester Pollinators and Butterfly Garden, is thrilled to share this Butterfly Garden with the community! Bart Jones, President of Lawn Works is the landscape designer and is proud of the butterfly garden and its positive impact on visitors. According to Jones, "It brings me joy to see so many people enjoy the Butterfly Garden and I am happy for the opportunity to design and plan the new extension. When I think of garden design, I add different elements—like bird baths that bring more life into the garden."

The Rochester Pollinators have finished four pollinator gardens around Rochester and have begun plans for two more. Through presentations and other educational efforts, they have inspired and offered guidance for many more native plantings within the county, such as the Detroit Zoo's pollinator garden, Abiding Presence Church, and multiple schools. Founder Marilyn Trent has presented at local schools, a church, cities, and the Rochester Hills Public Library and has held a webinar in the spring. Trent also served on the advisory committee for the Turn Oakland County Green initiative on behalf of the Rochester Pollinators.

Colin Pettit, a Public Service employee of the Rochester DPW, has been instrumental in supporting the creation of the butterfly garden and donated the beautiful bird bath in the garden. He is passionate about preserving and protecting our natural spaces. "I enjoy the outdoors and work to make it beautiful for our city residents. The new pollinator gardens have been especially gratifying to me to maintain."

The Rochester Pollinators were awarded a grant through the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester for this expansion to the pollinator garden in the Municipal Park. This butterfly garden is an excellent example of a hybrid, a combination of Michigan native plants, including three varieties of milkweed and non-native varieties that also attract butterflies. The City of Rochester and Rochester Hills mayors have both signed the Mayors' Monarch Pledge committing their respective cities to help to save the Monarch butterfly.

This garden is a community effort. Marilyn Trent is especially appreciative of the city, "The City of Rochester has been very supportive of my efforts to save the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators by making what I view as small changes that are huge in the way of innovation in public land management. "We are on a mission to educate people so they will want to introduce beautiful Michigan native flowers into their home gardens. So far, I am overwhelmed by the positive response," Trent explains.

The Official Ribbon Cutting ceremony and celebration will be in the Rochester Municipal Park Butterfly Garden at the south entrance off Pine Street on Monday, August 23rd at 4 PM. For more information, visit rochesterpollinators.org or join us for the Ribbon Cutting!

Festivities will begin with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony that will include an unveiling of our new informative sign, live music, free ice cream and muffins generously supplied by

Cookies & Cream, and (of course!) an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Butterfly Garden and all of the pollinators that are sure to be fluttering and buzzing around.

If you would like to get involved and help with events and plant sales or sign up for the Pollinator News, email Rochester Pollinators at pollinators@trentcreative.com. They would love to hear from you or have you join their volunteer team!

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The Rochester Pollinators serve as a 'hub' for native plant, pollinator, and garden resources for the local community. Their passion is evident as they move toward instigating policy change at a local and state level. They self-fund their efforts by selling "Rochester Pollinator" merchandise at Bizzy Buzz in Downtown Rochester and on Etsy, at Michigan native plant sales at the Downtown Rochester Farmers Market, and at various pop-up locations around Rochester/Rochester Hills.