



City of Highland Park

1707 St. Johns Ave
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
847.432.0800
cityhpil.com

City of Highland Park, IL:

2022 Mayor's Monarch Pledge Year-End Summary

Introduction

2022 was a productive year for Highland Park toward the goal of increasing species diversity and native habitat. Among the many initiatives undertaken in the past 12 months, a number of them included increasing acreage allocated to native vegetation. These projects included:

- 2022 Earth Day/Arbor Day Drive-thru Giveaway
- 2022 Mayoral Proclamation in support of Monarch Butterflies urging residents to make Highland Park a Monarch Way Station
- Expanding the Robert McClory Trail Pollinator Garden and Invasive Species Removal Initiative
- Expanding the City Hall Native Landscaping
- FEMA Residential Floodplain Buyout & Revegetation Projects

Each of these efforts involved native, pollinator-friendly, species in-lieu of conventional landscape varieties. As will be highlighted below, some of these projects required the reclamation of previously developed parcels or areas inundated with invasive species, and returning them to ecologically productive landscapes.

Programs & Demonstration Gardens

2022 Arbor Day: Native Tree & Plant Giveaway- [Website Link](#)

The City of Highland Park partnered with the Park District of Highland Park to hold its annual Earth/Arbor Day celebration on April 30, 2022. We offered a drive-thru giveaway event. In addition to offering a wide breadth of native trees and shrubs (such as Oak, White Pine, American Plum, Sumac, and Buttonbush), participants were able to pick up live plugs of Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly weed for installation at their home gardens. To spread the word about the importance of Monarch Habitat (and the mission of the Monarch Project) participants were provided a QR code (see below) that also included planting instructions and care:

Milkweed Planting Instructions



McClory Pollinator Garden & Ravinia Train Station Landscaping:

A long term goal for the City has been the investment in our portion of the Green Bay (Robert McClory) Bike Trail. This Since 2017, substantial time and effort has gone into the removal of invasive species (namely Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, and Barberry) that have enveloped this recreational pathway for decades. In the four years since this project began, we have cleared 2 acres of the trail in our pursuit of our ultimate goal, revegetation of all ~3 miles of the McClory trail and reintroduction of a wide breadth of native species. This would include grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees. In doing so we aim to create a broad and contiguous haven for pollinators including Monarchs that stretches through the heart of the city.

In 2022 the City seeded a half acre of the trail (previously cleared of Buckthorn), and installed dozens of plugs, shrubs, and trees. This was in addition to our routine invasive control program throughout this project site.

More information on the McClory Bike Trail Pollinator Garden can be found at www.cityhpil.com/forestry

The Ravinia Metra station stands at the head of the McClory Bike Trail. As part of an effort to revitalize the Ravinia Business district and surrounding neighborhood, the City invested in a complete renovation of landscaping at this facility. Where old installations of pachysandra and Burning Bush once grew, there are now plots of Milkweed, Black-eyed Susan, Goldenrod, Columbine, Bergamot, and Blazing Star.



Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 30
9AM - 11AM
Ravinia Festival's West Parking Lot
301 Ravine Park Drive

The City of Highland Park will celebrate Arbor Day 2022 with a drive-thru event focused on giving away hundreds of free native oak tree seedlings.

Residents are encouraged to plant new trees on their property to replace trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Visit cityhpil.com/arborday for planting instructions and a complete list of species available.

For additional information about trees, the Tree Preservation Ordinance, and the Forestry Section, please visit the City's website at cityhpil.com/trees. For general inquiries on trees and their care, please contact Ben Miller, City Forester, at **847.926.1179** or via email, bmiller@cityhpil.com.



Plant a Tree!

Memorial Day Reminders

City offices are closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of the holiday. Residents may call the non-emergency public safety line at **847.432.7730** for assistance.

Refuse and recycling pick-up will not occur on Memorial Day and service is pushed back one day for all customers during that week. Contact Lakeshore Recycling Systems at **773.685.8811**.

July 4th Parade Applications

Businesses and organizations may register for the 2022 July 4th Parade. This year's theme is "We are all Superheroes - What's Your Super Power? Community!"







The application is available at cityhpil.com/July4, or call **847.926.1006**.

LRS Renewal, Pricing Changes

The City's new agreement with Lakeshore Recycling Systems includes the same menu of service options as before. Depending on your service level, you may see new savings in future LRS billing.

Special Feature: Introducing The Lot and a Slate of Summer Events

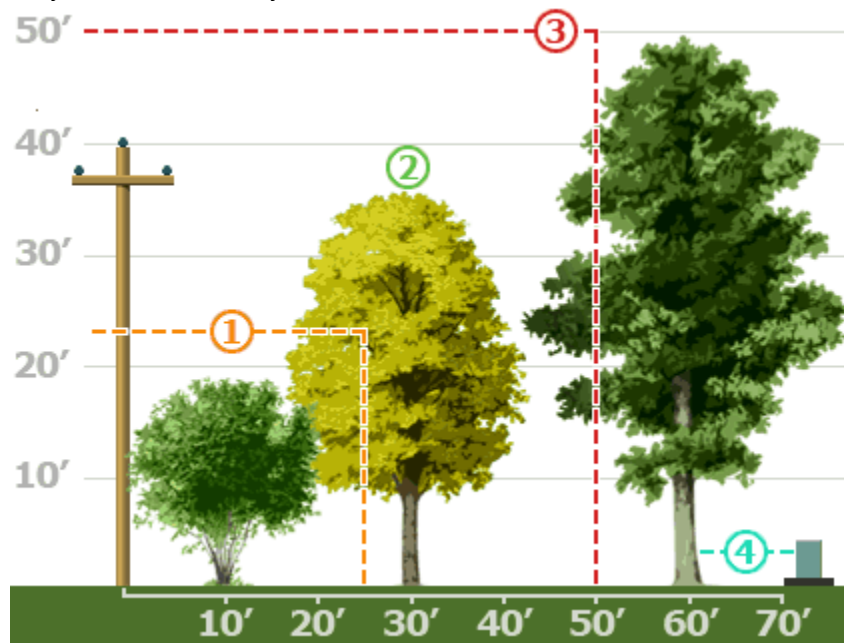
2022 Arbor Day Giveaway List & Planting Guides

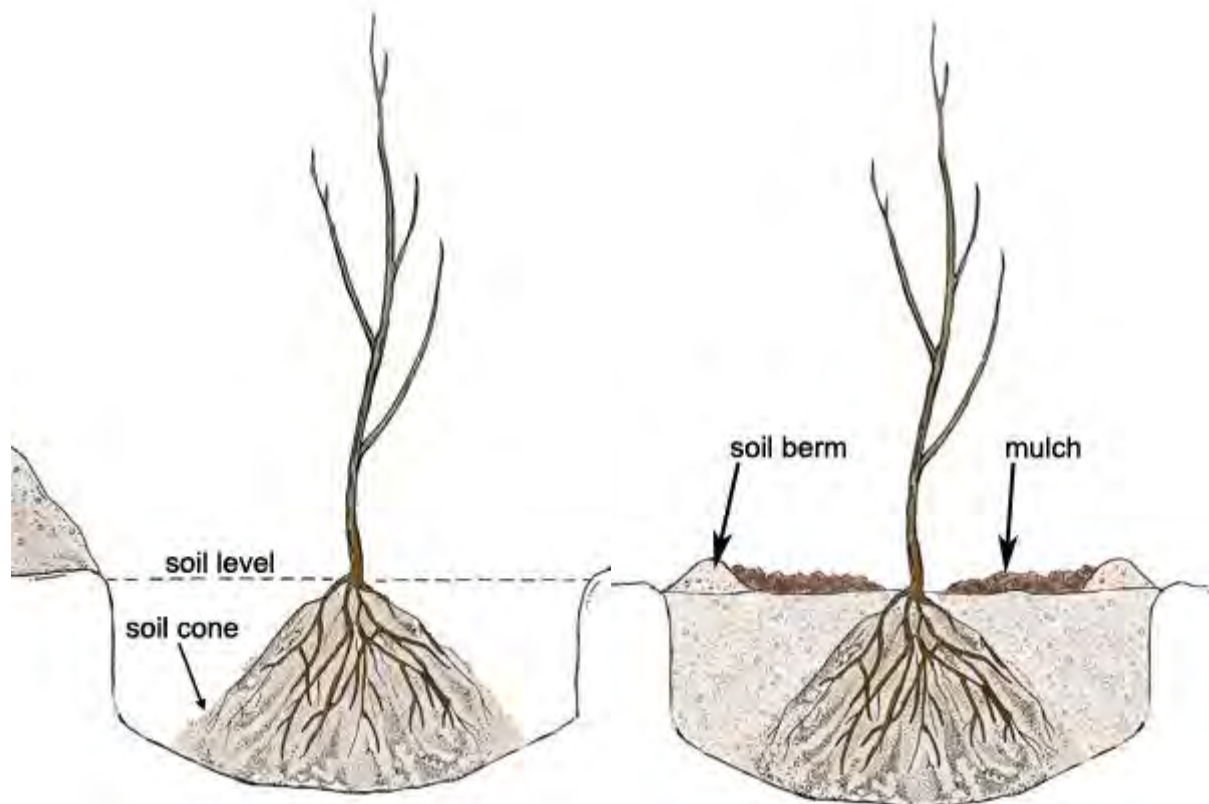
Station	City of Highland Park	Plant Type	Species	Growth Rate	Mature Height	Utility Compatible?	Features	Morton Arboretum Species Fact Sheet	Chicago Botanic Garden Location in Garden & Details
	City of Highland Park	Native Shade Trees	White Oak	Slow	50-80'	No	Fall Color, Wildlife, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Bur Oak	Slow	70-80'	No	Fall Color, Wildlife, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Red Oak	Moderate	60-75'	No	Fall Color, Wildlife, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
	Park District of Highland Park	Native Perennial Wildflowers	Common Milkweed	Fast	up to 5' tall	Yes	Drought Tolerant, Flowering, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Swamp Milkweed	Slow	up to 5' tall	Yes	Flood Tolerant, Flowering, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
	Advanced Tree Care	Native Evergreen Trees	White Spruce	Slow	40-60'	No	Evergreen, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Butterflyweed	Slow	1-3'	Yes	Perennial, Flowering, Pollinators, Monarch Butterfly Habitat	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
	Bartlett Tree Experts	Pollinator-Friendly Seed Mix Packets	Cosmos	Fast	1-6'	Yes	Annual, Flowering, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Purple Coneflower	Fast	3-4'	Yes	Perennial, Flowering, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Zinnia	Fast	1-3'	Yes	Flowering, Pollinators	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
	ComEd	Flowering Shrubs	Miss Kim Lilac	Fast	6-8'	Yes	Flowering, Pollinators, Drought Tolerant, Salt Tolerant	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Blue Muffin Viburnum	Moderate	3-8'	Yes	Flowering, Pollinators, Salt Tolerant	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
	Davey Tree Experts	Native Shrubs & Rain Gauges	Black Chokeberry	Moderate	5-8'	Yes	Flowering, Pollinators,	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Grey Dogwood	Slow	10-15'	Yes	Flowering, Drought Tolerant, Flood Tolerant	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden
			Hazelnut	Moderate	5-8'	Yes	Flowering, Drought Tolerant	Morton Arboretum	Chicago Botanic Garden

2022 Arbor Day Bareroot Oak Seedling Giveaway

Oaks (*Quercus sp.*) are large, deciduous hardwood trees that support hundreds of types of pollinators which feed on their leaves and flowers, and a wide range of wildlife that depend on their acorns. They also make excellent trees for the urban environment and provide a high rate of return-on-investment to humans because they are relatively long-lived and low maintenance. Due to high populations of urban deer, land development, and other factors, natural regeneration of oaks in Highland Park is low despite being a native species. Planting the following native species now will ensure large, mature oaks continue to represent the character of our community in the future: Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*); Red oak (*Quercus rubra*); White oak (*Quercus alba*); Black oak (*Quercus velutina*); Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*).

Plan decades into the future to give your new tree room to grow by taking care when planting near powerlines. Oaks are large trees (line #3 below) and should be planted about 40-50' from overhead powerlines, at least 15' away from the foundation of a home, at least 10' away from a garage, and 6' away from a driveway or sidewalk. Partial sun or full sun.





- 1) Unpack your trees and remove all packing materials. Carefully untangle roots and soak in water for 1-3 hours. Do not allow roots to dry out at any point.
- 2) Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can grow outward without crowding. Remove any grass within a 2' radius to eliminate competition. Turf grass is greedy.
- 3) Form a cone or mound of soil in the bottom of the planting hole. The roots should be fanned-out around the cone. It is critically important to plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery – see 'soil level' in picture above.
- 4) Do not add soil amendments such as potting soil, fertilizer, peat moss, bark, or mulch into the planting hole. However, mulch is very beneficial above ground (see #6 below).
- 5) Shovel the same soil that came out of the hole back into the hole. It should be firmly but not tightly packed. Construct a water-holding soil berm around the tree like a bagel. Give the tree plenty of water now.
- 6) After the water has soaked in, spread a layer of mulch two inches thick around the base of the tree. However, mulch should never be piled up against the trunk of a tree (see picture above), especially this young tree.
- 7) The soil and mulch around your new trees should be kept moist but not soggy. Deep, slow watering twice a week is ideal by leaving a garden hose on the tree base on a trickle for an hour.
- 8) Lawn sprinklers are calibrated for turf and only provide brief, shallow watering that will not reach tree roots. Therefore, lawn sprinklers alone will not be sufficient.

Ben Miller
 City Forester
bmiller@cityhpil.com
 847.926.1179

Milkweed Planting and Care Guide

You are receiving this plant as part of the Park District of Highland Park's pledge to help increase milkweed stems in the state of Illinois. The Illinois Monarch Project (<http://illinoismonarchproject.org/>) aims to plant 150 million new milkweed stems in Illinois by 2038. Thank you for taking part in this important mission!



Congratulations on your new Common Milkweed or Swamp Milkweed plug. Although these plants do not seem very large, they have a well-developed root system that will aid in their quick establishment on your property. Plants native to our region such as Common and Swamp Milkweed are well adapted to our soil and climate. Select a planting location based on the guidelines below:

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*):

- Full sun
- Average to moist soil
- Height= 3-6 feet
- Purple or white spherical umbel flowers bloom June-August

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*):

- Part to full sun
- Average to moist soil
- Height= 3-4 feet
- Pink flowers bloom June- August

How to plant:

1. Select a suitable site based on the growing conditions described above.
2. Dig a hole that is wider than the root ball size but not any deeper.
3. Carefully remove the plug from the container. It is best to push the root ball out from the bottom of the container and not pull on the top growth of the plant.
4. If roots appear to be tightly bound together, gently loosen the roots with your fingers.
5. Place the plant in the hole.
6. Fill in the hole around the plant with the removed soil. Compost can be added to enrich the soil.
7. Water thoroughly after planting.
8. Water regularly until plant has become established.

City of Highland Park Mayoral Proclamation



In Support of

Monarch Butterflies

WHEREAS, over the past couple of decades the migrating population of monarch butterflies has plummeted due to habitat loss and environmental stress--from an estimated one billion to record low numbers; and

WHEREAS, the near extermination of milkweed, the only plant on which monarchs lay their eggs, is a prime reasons for the alarming decline. We must not delay any longer if we hope to reverse this trend. The iconic monarch's migration route from Mexico to Canada includes Highland Park, Illinois, and it is within our ability and power to take action to help save the monarch butterfly; and

WHEREAS, we know that one source of hope for monarch survival is that individuals, institutions, and organizations can make a difference by including monarch friendly native plants, especially milkweed, in their landscapes; and

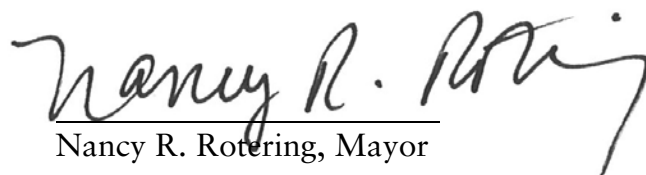
WHEREAS, furthermore, concerned citizens and organizations across the country are joining forces to create Monarch Way Stations to sustain the insects along their annual migration routes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake and State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim that Highland Park be a

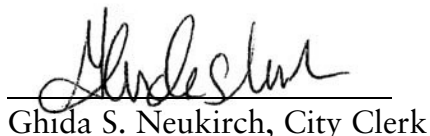
Monarch Way Station

and urge all residents of the community to do their part by planting milkweed, the exclusive food source for monarch larvae, so that every parcel of property in Highland Park may contribute to the survival of the monarch butterfly.

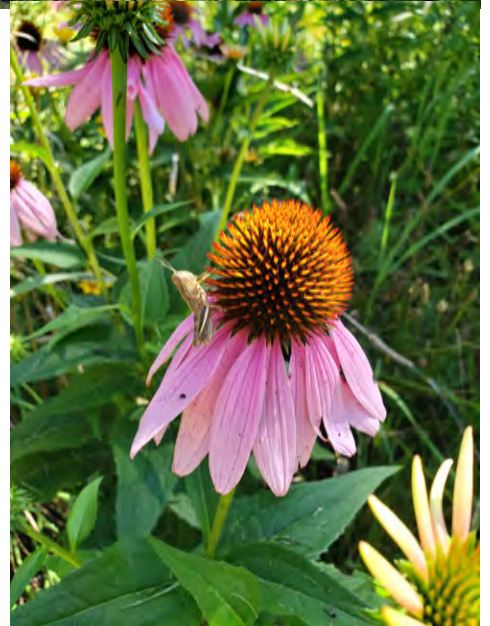
DATED this 10th day of April, 2023.


Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor




Ghida S. Neukirch, City Clerk

McClory Trail Pollinator Garden-Summer 2022



Pesticides & Pollinators:

In 2010, the City of Highland Park a Sustainability Plan to minimize, and in most cases eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. With the lone exception that chemical controls are used for the management of Buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, and non-native Phragmites as part of native reclamation projects.

More information on the City's pesticide use policy, Invasive species removal, as well native revegetation initiatives can be found at www.cityhpil.com/forestry.

FROM OUR WEBSITE:

^ City Pesticide Usage

The City of Highland Park has made a commitment, through the Sustainability Plan, adopted by City Council in 2010, to reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals (e.g., pesticides and fertilizers). Accordingly, no "weed and feed" products or herbicides will be used on City maintained turf, except for those classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as exempt materials under 40CRF 152.25, or those pesticides of a character not requiring FIFRA regulation (e.g., horticultural vinegar). City wide, fertilizer use must comply with the City's ban on phosphorus. Organic fertilizers are preferred as an alternative (e.g., organic compost for turf, mulch for flower beds).

For example, the City no longer sprays turf grass with pre or post-emergent herbicides to prevent dandelions or insecticides to prevent grubs and other 'turf pests.' Weed management in turf areas is accomplished by hand-pulling, or spot treating with organic herbicides such as essential oil-based, vinegar-based, fatty acid products, or increasing the frequency of the mowing cycle. Examples of products used include the brands Burnout or Phydura. Spot-treatment of weeds in hardscape areas, such as the brick pavers in the Central Business District, is accomplished by hand-pulling or spraying horticultural vinegar.

The City will use synthetic chemical-based herbicides to control aggressive, invasive species such as Buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, and Phragmites. The treatments are typically associated with ecological restoration where invasive species need to be controlled for new native vegetation to establish. The application of these chemicals is performed by contractors meeting qualification and reference standards, as well as holding State of Illinois Commercial Pesticide Application/Operation licenses. Notification, application, and rate usage must comply with labelling guidelines and all applicable laws and regulations.