



Perky Smith-Hagadone ~ Mighty Monarch Conservation Group
PO Box 562, Dover, ID 83825
(208) 304-8997

Dear Sandpoint City Mayor and Council Members,

The Mighty Monarch Conservation Group would like to thank you in advance for the opportunity to share an important opportunity. We will invite the City of Sandpoint to collaborate as a leader in the restoration of our essential pollinators to historic levels. We will present how the City of Sandpoint can become part of a growing movement called Monarch City USA.

We have provided several documents for you to pursue before the presentation on April 16th. You will see that the Mighty Monarchs have worked hard to be of assistance, and we will partner with you in this endeavor.

I. Preview: What is entailed in becoming a Monarch City USA.

From the website: <https://www.monarchcityusa.com/membership>

America has over 19,000 municipalities. Our goal is to get as many as possible in as short of time as possible to become creators/supporters of new monarch milkweed sites within their borders. Membership allows other cities and towns to inquire about who is a member and how close they are to their city or town. We believe in networking for more monarch habitat. *Currently, The cities of Rathdrum and Dover are Monarch Cities.*

To be a **member of Monarch City USA**, we ask that you commit to these simple, positive actions:

1. Publicly proclaim that your city is committed to helping the monarch butterflies survive by your immediate and future actions. *(A good example is from Brookings, Oregon:* <https://or-brookings.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/6170?fileID=12283>)
2. Encourage citizens to plant private milkweed and nectar gardens throughout your city.
3. Work with gardening, landscaping, and/or arboretum clubs in your city.

4. Support the national movement to support monarch butterfly habitat development by purchasing and placing Monarch City USA signs at appropriate sites.
5. Convert abandoned lands to monarch butterfly habitat.
6. Re-establish native milkweed and nectar plants where possible.
7. If possible, host an annual monarch butterfly festival and host a Pollinator Week. (Free advice is available from us, Monarch City USA.)
8. Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's future land use planning efforts.
9. Work with the local K-12 school system and educators to promote a better understanding of land use conservation.
10. Investigate possible Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary sites.

To be a **Monarch City USA member** your mayor and/or local government chief executives must [register](#) with us, pay the \$50 lifetime fee, and purchase one or more signs. Signs are \$150 each, but we do offer bulk discounts. You can get 6 signs for the price of 5 with a discount code: 6FOR5. Most cities will purchase many signs. Local garden clubs and other good civic organizations will likely want to purchase the signs for your city.

II. Sample Information for Local Newspapers for Pollinator Week

In celebration of [Sandpoint's] 'Pollinator Week' this first week of June, here is some helpful information for creating a beautiful garden for you and our local pollinators to enjoy. ***Did you know that the pollinators are responsible for 75% of our food source?*** Pollinators, which include insects, birds, mammals, and even the wind, take the pollen from a male plant and transfer it to a female plant, causing fertilization. This process is vital for crop production that feeds our human and animal population.

Examples of pollinators include bats, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and other insects. Choosing a variety of plants that will attract local pollinators and thrive in N. Idaho's hardiness zone is an important step. Native plants are always a good choice as they are accustomed to the environmental conditions. They are also generally easy to maintain once established. The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society has created a wonderful resource book available to help determine what plants may be best for your particular garden. There are special types of native plants called native host plants. These are the only plants our native pollinators can lay their eggs on, so they are vital.

One of the unique characteristics of our North Idaho area are the various 'micro' climates that exist and can affect how well a plant will thrive. There can be a difference in temperature, rain or snowfall between neighboring communities. And of course, the amount of sun vs shade, soil

type, moisture content, can vary between individual properties. Picking plants that are best suited for your property's characteristics will ensure the greatest success for a beautiful garden for both you and your pollinator friends!

Another aspect of choosing plants for pollinators is knowing the bloom time. Pick plants that bloom at different times during the season to allow for the longest possible food source availability. This is also visually appealing for your garden as a variety of blooms and colors can be enjoyed throughout the season!

Be sure to ask your nursery about pesticide free plants and learn about how to manage your property in a pollinator friendly way. Essential oils, diatomaceous soil and other non-chemical means will minimize the long-term effects that pesticides can have on our pollinator species.

Celebrate [Sandpoint's] Pollinator Week this [June ?] and create a beautiful pollinator garden for all to enjoy. The birds, bees, and insects will be 'buzzing with excitement'!

(The information above was taken from Aug. 2, 2023 *Architectural Digest* article)

III. Additional Resources:

<https://palyfoundation.org/pollinatorsexhibitpage>



IV. Sandpoint will want to write a proclamation if they choose to become a Monarch City.
You will find a copy of the City of Dover's and one at this address.

<https://or-brookings.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/6170?fileID=12283>

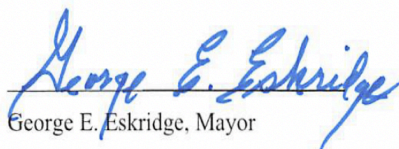
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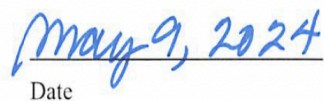
PROCLAMATION

Pollinator Week

- WHEREAS,** The City of Dover is home to many native wildlife and pollinator species such as birds, bees, and insects which keep our environment healthy and biodiverse; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Dover recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Dover is working to build a healthy, sustainable and wildlife-friendly community that brings the many benefits of nature to all corners of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Pollinators play an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Local plant species, wildlife, and urban agriculture all depend on pollination from bees, butterflies, and other insects; and
- WHEREAS,** In urban communities, pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining sustainable urban agriculture and local community gardens; and
- WHEREAS,** Pollinator species are in decline due to habitat loss and the use of pesticides, causing species like the monarch butterfly to decline significantly in the past 25 years; and
- WHEREAS,** National Pollinator Week is a national initiative that offers opportunities to individuals and communities to help restore native habitat, support local pollinator species; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Dover will continue to support local, state and national efforts that protect, restore, and conserve habitat for pollinators, as well as foster a greater connection between residents and wildlife; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I George E. Eskridge, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Dover, Idaho, do hereby proclaim the first week in June as **POLLINATOR WEEK** in the City of Dover and encourage all residents to participate in community activities that support and celebrate pollinator protection.


George E. Eskridge, Mayor


Date