



Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North and Ann Arbor Parks Department

The **Butterfly Garden** in Gallup Park/Ann Arbor MI was established in 1991. It was the brain child of Bob Greenough, AKA Butterfly Bob. The Garden is located just west of the Boat Launch parking lot off Geddes Road just east of Huron Parkway.

Design - At the center of the garden are the four wings of the butterfly! The body of the butterfly is composed of the path running South to North between the wings. The plants either side of the "body" are largely arranged in bilateral symmetry. The head is either to the north or toward the Huron River – you decide! There are three other garden areas: 1. Under the front signage, 2. East of the Trellis. There are climbing roses on each side of the trellis. Agastache are in the body of this garden with a rose bush at the east end. 3. Buddleia Garden: This is the northern most garden area. There are two varieties of Buddleia, one which flowers in the spring and the others that flower mid-summer till frost. The colors are white, yellow, purple and red.

Native Plant Restoration – In the fall of 2012, the City undertook a native plant restoration project bordering the butterfly garden to the east. This is the area between the parking lot and the butterfly garden. The plants found here are: Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Arborvitae (as a screen to the parking lot), American Hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*), Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).

Trumpet Vine – Between the Native Plant Restoration and the Butterfly Garden is a solitary Ponderosa Pine tree trellis. On it grows two varieties of trumpet vines – one with more common orange flowers, the other with rarer yellow flowers.

Canary in the Corn Field – Many people are not aware of the steep decline of Monarch Butterflies and the cause of this decline. The population has declined from a recorded high of approximately 1 billion butterflies in the mid-1990s to only 35 million butterflies in winter of 2013, the lowest number ever recorded. The Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety as co-lead petitioners joined by the Xerces Society and renowned monarch scientist Dr. Lincoln Brower filed a legal petition August 26, 2014 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking Endangered Species Act protection for monarch butterflies.

The butterfly's dramatic decline is being driven by the widespread planting of genetically engineered crops in the Midwest, where most monarchs are born. The vast majority of genetically engineered crops are made to be resistant to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, a uniquely potent killer of milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's only food. The dramatic surge in Roundup use with Roundup Ready crops has virtually wiped out milkweed plants in midwestern corn and soybean fields.

What can you do to save the Monarch? 1. Watch the video documentary Genetic Roulette by Jeffrey Smith of the Institute for Responsible Technology.