The species of native plants you see here have been growing in this region since before European settlers arrived. Native plants are important habitat for wildlife, providing food and shelter.

**Milkweed: A Special Story**

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is critical to the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Monarchs eat the flower nectar and lay their eggs only on milkweed. The larvae are not affected by the poison they absorb from the leaves; instead they become distasteful to potential predators. Monarchs complete a multi-generational migration each year between Mexico and the northern U.S. and Canada that would be impossible without milkweed.

**Grey-headed coneflower** (*Ratibida pinnata*) attracts butterflies and is a food source for birds in the fall.

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