



Monarch Waystations & Pollinator Gardens Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie 2010 Accomplishments

This project to expand Monarch habitat at Midwin was initiated in 2007. The goal is two-fold – to expand the populations of milkweed species for Monarch larvae and to increase nectar sources for adults, especially during the migration. Phase 1 includes establishing three on-site gardens and two off-site gardens at Midwin partners, El Valor & Eden Place, in Chicago. Phase 2 involves overplanting and expanding the gardens for diversity and species vigor.

In summer 2010, as part of Phase 1, a new 4,000-ft² Monarch waystation/pollinator garden was created at the River Road Access Parking Lot. Students from the El Valor Science & Technology Camps and ecological restoration trainees from the Greencorps Chicago-Calumet program assisted Midwin staff in planting two species of milkweed and 35 species of other native plants. A total of 125 hours was dedicated this year to Phase 1.

Phase 2 progressed at the Midwin Supervisor's Office garden by adding swamp milkweed plants and expanding habitat by 1,200 ft². Students and volunteers logged 112.5 hours at this site. Off-site, the Chicago El Valor garden also added more swamp milkweed. In spring 2010, Sullivant's and common milkweed were broadcast at the Iron Bridge Trailhead garden site. Milkweed seed was collected in September 2010.



El Valor campers planting Monarch Habitat.



Greencorps Chicago-Calumet doing Phase 1 work at a new Monarch Habitat site.

Year Project Initiated: 2007

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 4

Expenditures (through 10/2010): \$13,108.00

FS: \$6,409.00

Midwin Alliance: \$3,346.00

El Valor: \$2,815.00

Greencorps Chicago-Calumet: \$360.00

Other Volunteers: \$178.00

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