



The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. 2021 State Award Application Coversheet

Award Number 47 Award Name Planting for Pollinators

Award Applicant Information

Please check category type Garden Club/s Council District Individual

NAME OF CLUB (FULL NAME) Darien Garden Club

Club President Karen Doyle * Club Size 64 District II

Contact Person (person completing form) Yvonne Mlynarczyk

Position Awards Chairperson

Address 1106 69th Street City Darien Zip 60561

Phone 630-240-1725 Email yvoneski23@gmail.com

Is this project NEW or Continuing from Previous Years

Beginning date _____ Expected Completion date _____ or ongoing.

DEADLINES

Please attach this form to each 3-page Award Application Form or Book of Evidence for Flower Shows. All required documentation is outlined in the 2021-2022 Awards Guide and will conform with NGC award requirements. **All awards must be submitted electronically** except Yearbooks (#60), Publications (unless done electronically), Club Achievement (#62) and Club Horticulture (#63). Keep a copy of the award application for your club records.

October 1, 2021: Award #25: Landscape Design Council
Award #60: Yearbooks

November 1, 2021: All Award Applications for events/activities held before October 20, 2021 December 15,
2021: Award #62: Club Achievement
Award #63 Club Horticulture

January 1, 2022: Award #9 Illinois Judges Council Flower Show Schedule
All award applications for events held after October 20th January 10,

2022: Awards #10, 12, 13

*Club size is total number of club members at the time of awards submission.

EMAIL AWARD TO: gci2021awards@gmail.com

Darien Garden Club 2021 – Planting for Pollinators – GCI Award #47

The Darien Garden Club continues to pursue and expand our mission to support planting for pollinators.

LOCAL LEVEL

On a local level we are active within our community by establishing and tending to pollinator gardens. We provided educational programs to the public regarding the importance of protecting our pollinators.

We continue to maintain **St. John Butterfly Garden**, added plant identification signage in 2021, and data was collected there for the Field Museum's Monarch Community Science Project.

Members of our club continue to watch over **Darien's Milkweed Patch**, providing signage, and harvesting seed to distribute at each of our events.

Our Garden Therapy volunteers host on-going programs at two local living facilities – **Aspired Living of Westmont** and **Dimensions Living Burr Ridge**. At each of the locations we have established pollinator attracting plants and gardens.

We exhibited at **"National Night Out"** event at Darien Community Park, on Tuesday, August 3rd. We played caterpillar/butterfly matching game with the children, displayed a few monarch caterpillars, distributed small photo magnets with pollinators – and of course, milkweed seeds.

We congratulated the Mayor of Darien as he signed the **DuPage MP Monarch Pledge** and the **National Wildlife Foundation Mayors' Pledge** on April 12, 2021. We pledged to act as a consultant to the city to create more habitat. *"Darien, IL – Joseph Marchese -Mayor - City of Darien Illinois -Pledge Summary - The City of Darien, a city of 22,000 residents is committed to enhancing the environment for the Monarch Butterfly as well as for other critical pollinators. We have joined with the Darien Park District, Darien Garden Club and other local organizations to educate residents regarding the reduction of the Monarch Butterfly population, and the need for all of us to take an active role in enhancing our city environment so as to promote the growth of our pollinator program".*

We collaborated with our library, **Indian Prairie Public Library (IPPL)**, on numerous events promoting pollinators. In April we introduced **City Nature Challenge** to the public via zoom program with IPPL. We co-sponsored a virtual program on pollinators during **National Garden Club Week** featuring Kim White. We collaborated to create **Pollinator Week**. An event held on June 26th was promoted by the library as follows: *"Celebrate and learn about pollinators and their importance to our well-being. Learn what you can do to help pollinators by planting and nurturing their habitat. Three experts will be on hand to feature some of their favorites pollinators: Monarch butterflies, honey bees, and hummingbirds. Naturalist Kim White will have live monarch life stage examples and answer all your questions about their life cycle and habitat preference. Beekeeper Lori Harris will have live honey bees displayed safely for all to see their complex social system. Local birder Bob Fisher will explain the role of hummingbirds in pollination and help you attract these flying jewels to your garden. Also, learn about the Illinois Monarch Project including how you can help. Tour and learn more about the library's Prairie Patch. Visit with Darien Garden Club members who can help you get started with ideas for your very own pollinator garden and walk away with your own milkweed starter package to start your own pollinator garden. Take and Make bags will available with pollinator information and activities for the youth in attendance."* We support the Prairie Plant Patch in collaboration with the STEM program for children at IPPL. On Sat, Oct 9, we partnered to host Oaktober Celebration at the IPPL monarch waystation. The library announcement read as follows: *"Drop by the Reading Garden and Prairie Patch for Oaktober: a celebration of Oak trees during the month of October! With the expertise of our Darien Garden Club co-sponsors, you'll learn to recognize an Oak tree, find out why they are so important, and leave understanding what you can do to help restore the Oak ecosystem. Stay to enjoy family-friendly activities like stories, games, crafts, and more! You may even go home with your*

own Oak sapling or plant an acorn to grow your own tree. Held indoors if rain. Oaktober Celebration held at IPPL's monarch waystation." During this event 50 oak saplings were distributed to the public.

We are in communication with the **Darien Park District** Board and grounds maintenance staff. We have initiated conversations about habitat maintenance and creating tree canopy. Two members of the Darien Park District Board have joined our club this year.

We helped establish a pollinator garden at **Chuck's Southern Comfort Café in Darien**, a popular local restaurant. Chuck Pine, the owner, is an avid gardener. He grows fresh vegetables in a large garden behind his restaurant. We helped him establish a pollinator garden on his premises as part of the **Route 66 Flyway project**. We actively attempted to recruit other local businesses and individuals along the **Route 66 Flyway** to plant milkweed, providing information and distributing seed to them.

On July 17, 2021, we hosted our first ever garden walk that was open to the public. **Every Garden Tells a Story** featured six gardens belonging to our members. Each garden was unique, and all provided ideas and education for creating habitat to support pollinators. Tickets sales totaled 453. Many attendees spent much time asking questions of the garden hosts and docents. Many marveled at the large number of pollinators active in these gardens. Each of the gardens had a membership table providing literature to promote the "Conservation at Home" program, the DuPage Milkweed Project, the Illinois Milkweed project. Packets of seeds for pollinator plants were distributed.

PARTICIPATION IN WIDE-SPREAD INITIATIVES

We partner with wide-spread initiatives including the **DuPage Monarch Project, Illinois Monarch Project, Milkweed for Monarchs Project, IDOT Monarch Corridor, and Conservation at Home**. We collect and distribute native seed, members attend Illinois Monarch Project summits throughout the year and share this information with our membership at large by reporting at meetings and by including information in our monthly newsletter. We promote the "Conservation at Home" program at our meetings and events, sharing the importance of creating and maintaining habitat for pollinators. We signed the **Rotary International Operation Pollinator Project Pledge**. We are associate members of the DuPage Monarch Project.

We continue to provide **social media posts** to spotlight the local habitats at our parks and encourage conservation of monarchs and other native species.

Expenses for programs at IPPL - \$300. Cost of plant markers/signage \$ 75. Projects at assisted living centers were underwritten by the facilities. Volunteer hours for these endeavors – 300+ hours, not counting the garden walk. The garden walk was our annual fundraiser; volunteer hours totaled 1,200. The promotion of pollinators was one of the many benefits of our garden walk.



Children engaged in STEM program .



Close-up photos educating children about monarch lifecycle.



Family at pollinator celebration.



Educating and entertaining at National Night Out.



DGC booth at National Night Out in Darien Community Park.



Mayors' Monarch Pledge
Darien Mayor Joseph A. Marchese
with DGC member Cathy Streett.



Happy volunteers at St.
John's Butterfly Garden.



Pollinator Garden at Aspired
Living of Westmont.