

**Lombard Garden Club
Conservation Educational Outreach Project
Application for GCI Award #40 - Conservation**

1. New Project: Yes_X_No__Beginning Date: July 2020 Completion Date: Ongoing

2. Brief Summary and Objectives of Project.

The Lombard Garden Club has three committees that work tirelessly for the preservation of pollinators by promoting pollinator-friendly gardening and educational programs for LGC members and the public. The Lilacia Park Butterfly Garden Committee, the Conservation Committee, and the Sheldon Peck Homestead Garden have ongoing projects that specifically advance habitats for pollinators. We expanded our pollinator educational videos to fill the month of June, National Pollinator Month. Those videos reached **52,457** people.

We are planning new videos for Spring 2022, including more pollinator videos in June, a new virtual tour of the Lilacia Park Butterfly Garden, and a more information on native plants and pollinator habitats. The total number of people reached this year through our videos is **579,474**.

Our Programs Committee offers educational programs to our members and visitors that frequently feature topics related to our environmental efforts. The Publicity Committee promotes all the efforts of the Lombard Garden Club's Committees. We plan to expand our educational outreach and promotion of these efforts further to include more people in DuPage County (population 922,921). We want to inspire other gardeners to add plants for pollinators to their gardens. Links to some of our videos about pollinators and the Sheldon Peck Homestead pollinator garden are attached.

3. & 5. Involvement of Club Members, other organizations, etc. & Continuing Involvement, Follow-up, Maintenance

The Lombard Garden Club actively promotes the use of pollinator-friendly plants in home gardens and in public spaces. In 2020, we created a virtual tour of the "**Lilacia Park Butterfly Garden**" to encourage more visitors to come to this beautiful public garden. We also produced four short video clips promoting the garden and pollinators. The Lombard Garden Club has plans for installing signage to label the plants in the Lilacia Park Butterfly Garden to add to our educational outreach to Lilacia Park's estimated 75,000 yearly visitors.

The Sheldon Peck Homestead Garden Committee completely restored the gardens at the historic Sheldon Peck Homestead. The Committee worked closely with the Lombard Historical Society to seek out and plant native plants that would have been at the site in 1839. The Sheldon Peck Homestead is registered on the Network of Freedom: a national list of verified Underground Railroad historic sites. The native plants in the garden are pollinator-friendly and are planted on a highly visible corner in Lombard. Although the

visitor and viewership numbers have shifted due to Covid-19, the last numbers we calculated were 1100 Peck Homestead official visitors and an estimated 14,800 people viewing the site. Since it is on a busy commuter train line, 80.4 million passengers briefly viewed it on their travels. We have plans to highlight the Sheldon Peck Homestead Garden in more video/slideshow format.

Our LGC Committees will continue to plant, weed, mulch, edge, and water the gardens. The Conservation Committee will continue to develop their educational outreach with the assistance of the Programs and Publicity Committees.

4. Project Expenses and means of funding

Each LGC committee has their own budget that is allocated by the Lombard Garden Club. The Lilacia Park Butterfly Garden has a budget of \$100, the Conservation Committee has a budget of \$200, and the Peck Homestead has a budget of \$300. Their budgets are bolstered by the countless in-kind donations of time and labor from their committee members and from other volunteers in the Club.

The Lombard Garden Club funds its committees entirely through membership dues and fundraising from our Annual Lilac Sale. Additional in-kind contributions are made by our dedicated membership and volunteer committee members. Our inhouse video productions are done on a strictly volunteer basis and there are no costs associated with that portion of the project.

Video links to Facebook and/or YouTube:

Peck Garden in Autumn https://youtu.be/C7VlicLLq_Y

Peck Garden in Summer <https://youtu.be/1GOJg0RYU18>

Beautiful Moths and Butterflies <https://youtu.be/QyDKmJkY8Ac>

Moon Gardens <https://youtu.be/EFfe9-nCZfLw>

Wild World Pollinators <https://youtu.be/jMozjYf2QR4>