

Sustainable Southfield News and Updates

The Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators have a vital role in our ecosystem in maintaining biodiversity and are critical for the longevity of our food source. Insects and creatures such as butterflies, bees, moths, beetles, birds, and bats are considered to be pollinators. These small but powerful pollinators contribute to most of the fruits, seeds, and nuts that we consume on a regular basis.

In recent years, the pollinator population has drastically declined. For example, the monarch butterfly population has declined by 90% and is considered an endangered species due to loss of habitat, climate change, and improper use of pesticides. Environmental factors, like temperature, impact the monarch's reproduction cycles, migration patterns, and hibernation periods. The bee population has faced similar challenges and continues to be the face of the pollinator-friendly campaign alongside the monarch butterfly.



Check out the new Monarch Butterfly sculpture located along southbound Northwestern Highway on the property of Eaton Corporation.

(Photo by Souzan Hanna)

Did you know?

- The scientific name for the monarch butterfly is *Danaus plexippus* and in Greek means “sleepy transformation.”
- Milkweed is the only plant that female monarch butterflies will lay their eggs on.
- The life span of an adult butterfly is only four to five weeks.
- There are more than 20,000 species of bees.
- The average lifespan of a honey bee is approximately 1.5 months during the working season.
- Nearly 75% of the world’s fruit and seed crops depend on pollinators.

A world without pollinators would be devastating to our environment and a huge loss to our ecosystem. However, you can help improve the pollinator population in your community by planting native wildflowers and milkweed in your own garden! To learn more about the best types of plants that encourage the pollinator population and other gardening tips, please visit mi.gov/monarchs .



Southfield Sustainability Team

Alex Bollin – Planner I

Terry Croad – Director of Planning

Souzan Hanna – Sustainability Planner

Brandy Siedlaczek – Storm Water Manager

Frederick E. Zorn – City Administrator