

Wildlife at Fresh Pond



Ranger Tim Puopolo



The 2023 Monarch Butterfly Release Celebration

Sunday, August 20th 2-3:30pm

125 Monarchs Released
250 Attendees



Lifecycle Story
Walk

Storyteller Yumi
Izuyama

Pollinator Plant
Tables

Kids' Crafts

Meet and Greet
Butterflies,
Caterpillars,
Chrysalises

Jr. Ranger Badge
Activity



What Festivities Occurred?



Over 125 monarch butterflies released in Cambridge

By Bailey Allen

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Wings of black and gold fluttered through the air at Fresh Pond on Sunday afternoon as Cambridge officials hosted the city's ninth annual Monarch Release Celebration to boost local butterfly populations.

Cambridge Water Department staff raised more than 125 butterflies over the past three to four weeks in the ranger station at Fresh Pond Reservation in preparation for the release, Water Department ranger Tim Puopolo said in a phone interview.

"We usually get the eggs from the University of Kansas — they're airmailed over and [the caterpillars] are up and about when they get here," Puopolo said. "One thing I had to do to get this amount of eggs is proving we had sufficient milkweed to feed them."

Rangers at the station spent each morning cleaning the cages, washing the milkweed leaves, and feeding the caterpillars until the insects built their chrysalises after about 14 days, Puopolo said. Staff monitored their emergence from the chrysalises and got ready to release them no later than five days after they came



PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Ranger Timothy Puopolo released monarch butterflies at Fresh Pond in Kingsley Park in Cambridge on Sunday. The Cambridge Water Department staff raised the butterflies.

out as butterflies.

At Sunday's event, storyteller Yumi Izuyama told participants

about the monarchs' migration to Mexico, and children were given the opportunity to earn ju-

nior ranger badges, Puopolo said.

Puopolo has been involved

with the monarch butterfly project for six years, and it's quite important to him, he said, especially since the International Union for Conservation of Nature reclassified the monarch population from "declining" to "endangered" in July 2022.

"An estimated 80 to 90 percent of the monarch population has been lost since 1990," Puopolo said. "In the last 30 years, pretty reliably, the amount of monarchs that have returned to Mexico [during migration] is fewer than the amount that left, due to all the obstacles put in their way nowadays."

Obstacles for the butterflies include loss of their habitat caused by overdevelopment, loss of meadows and milkweed that monarch larvae need to survive, and catastrophic wildfires and floods that are now more frequent across the United States, Puopolo said.

Residents can help monarch butterfly populations thrive by growing milkweed leaves, creating gardens with blooming flowers, avoiding extensive use of pesticides, and reducing their carbon footprint, he said.

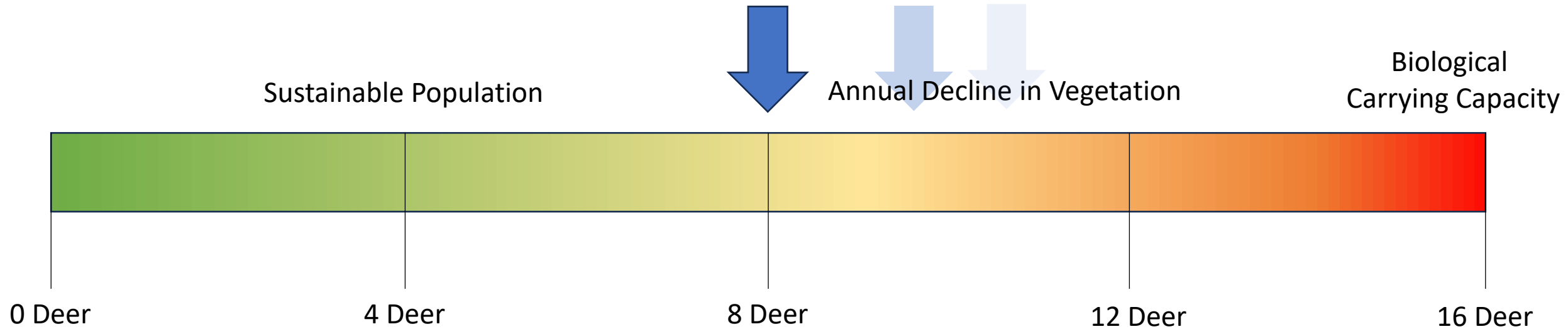
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White-tailed Deer

Mature Males: 0
Mature Females: 2
Yearlings: 4
Fawns: 2
Interlopers: 2

Fawn Deaths 2023: 2



Owls





Coyotes & Raccoons

in brief





Climate Considerations

