

Monarch Events & Volunteering



Milkweed Planting & Kickoff

July 21, 6:00-7:30pm, meet at Lusitania Meadow

We'll plant the milkweed monarch caterpillars need to thrive in preparation for the release of the fully-grown butterflies in August. Please wear sturdy shoes! Long pants and bug repellent recommended.

Caterpillar Check-ups & Release Prep Workshops

July 31 and August 12, 1-3pm - meet outside Ranger Station

Learn more about the monarch butterflies and see how the caterpillars are growing, learn how you can help, and prepare crafts for the release! Some butterfly decorations we'll keep at the Water Dept. for people to share at the release, and some can go home with you. This will be a great program for families! Can't make it but want to make crafts of your own for the big day? Feel free to contact Kirsten for design ideas!

Black Swallow-wort Pod-a-Palooza & Pod Patrol

August 4, 6-7:30pm for Pod-a-Palooza - meet at volunteer trailer

August 18, 6-7:30pm for Pod Patrol - meet at volunteer trailer

Not only does black swallow-wort push out the milkweed which monarchs depend on, it also confuses monarchs who accidentally lay their eggs on it, poisoning the caterpillars. Help stop the spread - pick seed pods with us! This is a low-impact weeding activity appropriate for all ages - bring friends and family! Bug repellent recommended.

Monarch Butterfly Release and Parade!

August 23, 2-3:30pm, parade starts from Water Treatment Facility at 2pm

This is the big day all our hard work has been for - the release of our monarchs back into the wild! A parade - open to all (decorations and noisemakers encouraged!) - will take us from the Water Treatment Facility to Lusitania Meadow, where we'll have a little ceremony and finally send our butterflies off into the meadow. Feel free to just meet us at the meadow too!

Be Our Eyes on the Reservation!

Contact us if you see monarchs as:



Larvae (caterpillars)



Pupas (in cocoon)



Adult butterflies

Please, leave them as you find them - they belong where they are.

Thank you for your help!

Join the 1st Ever Fresh Pond Monarch Watch!



What's This All About?

This project is aimed at protecting and boosting the monarch butterfly population at Fresh Pond through community teamwork between Reservation staff and **folks like you**. We're raising monarch caterpillars for release in August, **but while they grow, we need help improving habitat for them (and other wildlife!) during volunteer sessions listed on the back of this flyer - please join us!**

Why Monarchs, Why Here?

Migratory monarchs are in decline. Milkweed loss (the plant they depend on) and loss of overwintering habitat in Mexico are probable causes. Since eastern monarchs migrate from maritime Canada all the way to Mexico, each habitat link along their way is crucial! We're ensuring that Fresh Pond is a good "waystation" on their journey - as well as a good place for their young.



Take Part!

Join a volunteer session, **learn more** about the monarchs at our "caterpillar check-ups" and **visit** them at the Ranger Station as they grow! **Be our eyes on the Reservation** - let us know if you see a monarch here, and we'll post your find at the Station and on the web.



For more info and to report a sighting:

Contact Kirsten at (617) 349-6489 / klindquist@cambridgema.gov. Or, check out updates and great online resources on the project page at: www.cambridgema.gov/water/freshpondreservation.

Events, Butterfly Release and Volunteer Sessions on Reverse!

