



Dear Ohio Pollinator Partners,

We are reaching out to you to promote the **Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative**. The purpose of this initiative is to create and/or improve pollinator habitat across the State of Ohio. In addition to this key goal, we would like to increase pollinator conservation awareness of all Ohioans. Quality and amount of pollinator habitat in Ohio, including tall grass prairies, milkweed/butterfly weed host plant prairies, wildflower-rich stop over habitat and mixed broadleaf forests have been in decline. As a result pollinators have declined locally, regionally and world-wide. In Ohio, Monarchs have declined at an average 50% in the number of adult monarchs observed across the State in the last 10 years (according to data from the Ohio Lepidopterists Monitoring sites).

According to the United States National Research Council report on the Status of Pollinators in North America “Long term population trends for several wild bee species (notably bumblebees) and some butterflies, bats and humming birds are demonstrably downward”. In addition, three-fourths of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators to reproduce. Most fruit, vegetable, seed crops, and other plants that provide fiber, medicines, and fuel are pollinated by animals. While the use of pesticides and herbicides play an important role in controlling unwanted insects and invasive plant species for agriculture and urban landscapes, over use and improper application of these chemicals can have an adverse effect on many pollinator species. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, birds, bats, beetles and other insects. The significant importance of pollinator habitat creation and conservation within our local communities and economies has called our attention to act on their behalf and work toward the aforementioned goal.

The Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative is a collaborative effort and we invite you to join us in this effort to promote pollinator conservation through:

1. Outreach
2. Education
3. Habitat Creation and Conservation
4. Data/Monitoring
5. Habitat Management guidelines (statewide long term plan)

Local support throughout the state is critical for this initiative to achieve the greatest level of success. Please review the attached questionnaire and let us know how you and your organization can help pollinators.

Collectively, we can work to improve the condition of Ohio for pollinators.

Sincerely,

Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative Team

Name of Group/Agency/University: _____

Contact info and email: _____

Current pollinator conservation efforts (if applicable) _____

Does your group/agency/university support this initiative? Yes ____ No ____

If no, please describe the nature of your answer: _____

If yes, please indicate from the list below to what capacity your group/agency/university will be able to assist.

- Social Media/Internet Communication:** Promoting this initiative through social media would provide an outlet for many people to learn about threats to pollinator habitat at their own pace with relative ease. This can occur in the form of email, blogging, creating a website or Facebook page, etc.
- Outreach and Public Education:** Providing education and support to local communities is a vital component for long term success. This could include providing a presentation and/or educational materials to schools, performing a webinar or lecture for local government officials or municipalities or just being available to answer questions from community members via phone or email.
- Technical Support/Assistance:** Providing technical guidance/support on how to best manage established pollinator habitats throughout the year is a need that many groups or local communities may have. This type of assistance can occur in the form of email, phone call, or on site meeting/visit.
- Financial Support/Assistance:** Providing monetary assistance for this initiative is welcomed.
- Habitat Conservation/Creation:** This type of assistance would require you to be available for hands on field work, utilizing an organized establishment plan and then a long-term management plan for long term success.
- Training:** This type of assistance would involve providing any interested group or community training that will aid them in the establishment and management of pollinator habitat. This would include providing an overview of native plants and grasses that are essential for pollinator health as well as identification and management of invasive plant species.
- Data/Monitoring:** It is critical that monitoring of the habitat take place to insure proper establishment and management steps are being taken. Additionally, the monitoring of pollinator species and other wildlife (i.e. song birds) will further determine the success of the project.

Please return this email to:

Ohiopollinator@gmail.com