

# City of Purcell

## Purcell Monarch & Pollinator Project

### 2020 Guidelines

#### Goals

- To protect current wildlife and to attract new wildlife in the designated areas around the City of Purcell.
- Encourage wildlife enthusiasts to visit and enjoy the lake.
- Educating the public by example of signage and best practices.
- Reduce fuel, chemical usage, maintenance costs, and time allocation for mowing and upkeep of the designated areas.

#### Attracting Pollinators

- Why manage for pollinators?
  - Native pollinators are free, and their numbers can be increased in simple and inexpensive ways.
  - Pollinators help to keep the ecosystem healthy.
  - Habitats used by pollinators are attractive to other beneficial insects.
  - Practices that benefit pollinators also produce wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, and improve water quality.

#### Types of Beneficial Vegetation for Wildlife

- Fruits - Wild grapes, plums, hawthorns, blackberry, honeysuckle, greenbrier, and rattan vine. Plants also provide cover for nesting, resting, rearing young, and escaping predators.
- Seeds - Seeds produced by pigweed, lamb's quarters, foxtail grass, and crabgrass, are favorite foods of doves.
- Browse - Succulent green parts of plants like leaves, young shoots, tender branches, grasses, weeds, twigs, and buds.

## Designated Habitat Maintenance

1. Mowing of Designated Areas
  - a. Mow twice per year to work with Monarch butterfly migrations and plant cycles
    - i. First optional mowing between June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>
    - ii. Second mowing between November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Rotational Mowing
    - i. Rotate mowing of designated areas so that not all areas have been mowed every year.
  - c. Reserve Old Growth
    - i. Set aside no-mow patches inside designated areas.
    - ii. No-mow patches would be undisturbed for 2 to 3 years.
    - iii. No-mow patches would be alternated for mowing every 2 to 3 years.
    - iv. Vegetation should not be disturbed from the late spring through early fall, the nesting season for many birds.
2. Maintenance
  - a. Maintain the areas with periodic mowing, disc harrowing, or prescribed burning.
  - b. Disturb a different one-third to one-half of the area each year. In any one year, only a part of the area should be disturbed, and vegetation that is 2 to 3 years old should be left on the remainder.
  - c. Prescribed burning can be used to disturb grasses and weeds and to kill saplings and shrubs after 2 to 3 years of growth. A fire break should be harrowed across the area so that a maximum of one half is burned in any year.
3. Signage
  - a. Post signage around all areas that interact with the public and explain why the areas are set up and managed the way that they are.
  - b. Use signage to connect the public with different groups that have sponsored or inspired the managed areas.
  - c. Use the signage for advertising and tourism to attract people to our parks and lake area.