

Kirk Bednar
CITY MANAGER



Jay Evans
ASST. CITY MANAGER

BRENTWOOD CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

February 20, 2024

Citizens for Brentwood Green Space
1557 Copperstone Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

Re: Monarch Butterfly Habitat Project at Smith Park

Dear Board of Directors:

The Brentwood Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) is pursuing a worthwhile endeavor that may be of interest to the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space. Over the last 25 years, the population of monarch butterflies in North America has declined by a staggering 90%, including an estimated 22% single-year decline in 2023. Because of this alarming trend, the EAB has included the establishment of monarch habitat in Brentwood as a priority project for 2024 and 2025. This presents an opportunity that is complimentary to the missions of both the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space and the EAB.

This spring, the EAB will be planting milkweed in an area along Smith Park's unpaved access road that leads from the trailhead to the northwest area of the park. This space will be 200 feet long and 60 feet wide, making it half the minimum size recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture for monarch habitat. We believe this size area will be manageable by our small group, and if successful, can be doubled the following year. The perimeter of the planting area will be clearly marked with "Wildflowers - Do Not Mow" signage.

We intend to use a native milkweed variety known as *Asclepias Syriaca*. Seeds will be germinated in a refrigerator for 14 days in a moist mixture of 50/50 perlite and vermiculite. Once planted, the habitat area will be watered for a minimum of two weeks. Interpretive signage will be added that describes the purpose of the habitat and the plight of the monarch butterfly.

If the CBGS would like to partner with the EAB on this project, funding in the amount \$2,500 would be greatly appreciated to offset the following expenses: habitat signage (with CBGS/EAB recognition,

\$1,700); seeds (\$500), "Do Not Mow" signs (\$100); and site prep (\$200). All labor and ancillary expenses would be covered by the EAB and its volunteers, with watering during establishment provided by the City.

This project would not only benefit the graceful monarchs and other valuable pollinators, but would also serve to educate the public on the importance of conservation and habitat restoration.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and if the the CBGS is amenable to such a partnership.

Best Regards,



Jay M. Evans
Assistant City Manager
City of Brentwood, TN