



Moraga for Monarchs

Ecology

Beauty

Community



California's monarch butterflies are vanishing; there has been over a 99% decrease in Monarch Butterfly population in California since the 1980s. Moraga is part of the Monarchs' critical coastal range; Rancho Laguna Park is eight miles from an established Monarch overwintering site at Lake Merritt. Citizens of Moraga can support a chance for recovery by providing much needed nectar and larvae host habitat for the few surviving Monarchs migrating back from overwintering sites this spring and beyond. Conservation work done now can still make a difference. Any work done will also help other native pollinators experiencing critical declines. In the process of helping Monarchs, we will enhance town beauty and fellowship.

"MORAGA FOR MONARCHS" MISSION

Moraga Garden Club has established the "**Moraga for Monarchs**" Project. Our goal is to help repopulate monarchs throughout town. We are collaborating with local entities (St. Mary's College, Moraga Gardens Farm, the Town of Moraga, Moraga Garden Center, service organizations, and wildlife experts) to deliver cohesive, sustainable support. Our goal is three-fold:

- Educate our citizens to encourage appropriate Monarch assistance
- Establish attractive public Monarch habitats
- Provide plants to support fire-safe, Monarch-friendly private landscaping

The ultimate vision is to have hillsides infused with beautiful monarch nectar-rich, native wildflowers and milkweed. Within town, we envision attractive, well-groomed Monarch-supportive gardens. In private yards, we encourage patches of Monarch-specific plants. Working in harmony, private neighborhoods with even small yards can create inviting corridors for butterflies.

THE 2021 PLAN

Our plan begins by converting the former par course at Rancho Laguna Park into an attractive Monarch habitat spring 2021. Rancho Laguna Park is located at the west end of Camino Pablo. The garden will be a certified Monarch Waystation, meaning it will provide the necessary elements to encourage Monarchs to visit, feed and breed in Moraga. The garden will be used for teaching both homeowners and school children; it will also contain educational signage about Monarch butterflies and plants they need to survive. We plan to use this site to begin a three-year Monarch support effort that ultimately could expand to other meadow-like locations.



The Rancho Laguna garden layout will consider aesthetics, existing park usage, fire codes, the known presence of deer, water requirements as well as public and pet safety. We plan to use the center circle as a fenced and irrigated planting area. Eventually, we envision benches on either side of the garden so citizens can enjoy viewing flowers and visiting pollinators. Benches and perhaps stepping stones may be offered as fundraising instruments to help finance the waystation installation.

To date Moraga Garden Club has conducted extensive research, developed a qualified team of club members and community partners, built a resource database, propagating over 1100 Monarch supportive plants, and collaborated with a school on a new pollinator conservation teaching unit. The Garden Club has provided funds to kickstart this project. We anticipate the waystation being completed using manual help and financial donations from local groups, business and citizens. Discounted goods and/or services will also be solicited from vendors.

Ideally installation of plants should occur in March; most additional planting will be phased over the subsequent 12 weeks, with some planting extending into the fall. The majority of plants are being propagated by Moraga Garden Club members. All of the plants chosen are deer-resistant, most are native to California, and all adhere to the MOFD-banned landscaping mandate.

Moraga Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible. Our federal tax identification number is 86-1162099. The mailing address is P.O. Box 6062, Moraga, CA 94570-6062.

IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER OR WANT MORE INFORMATION:

Email: MoragaforMonarchs@gmail.com

HOW TO HELP TODAY:

Financial donations are needed and appreciated! Checks made out to Moraga Garden Club may be sent to the P.O. Box below – please include the word “Monarchs” in the note section:

P.O. Box 6062
Moraga, CA **94570**-6062

Working together to support iconic Monarch butterflies while there is still hope for them could be a gift for generations. Thank you!

Respectfully, Moraga Garden Club, Moraga for Monarchs Project



Proposed Waystation Site at Rancho Laguna Park from West. Planting area is 2600 sq feet, 58 feet in diam, 170 feet in circumference, and makes up .6% of Park space.

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Site with proposed typical vegetation and type of signage under consideration. Opportunities for art installations are budget dependent (not in amount sought to date).



Remesh wire and redwood fencing allows for maximum visibility and in keeping with rustic setting.

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