

# Bee City USA - Mequon

Report on 2021

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

MNP hosted volunteer activities throughout summer and early fall. Over 100 volunteers participated in invasive species removal, native seed collection, and native tree and shrub planting. The one habitat project that was created this year was a 40 acre project area. MNP staff took 40 acres of land at the Preserve out of agriculture and began to restore it back to its natural/historical landscape. Volunteers worked alongside MNP staff in dispersing native seed mixes in this area. MNP staff and volunteers also partook in invasive species management throughout the preserve. Species that were focused on were garlic mustard, dames rocket, cattail, sweet clover, buckthorn, reed canary grass, and phragmites. The two pollinator gardens at MNP are continued to be managed by staff and volunteers. One pollinator garden is located next to raise vegetable garden beds, which were planted by a family of volunteers. The other pollinator garden is located next to the MNP Bee Club Apiary. Seed from both of these gardens was hand-collected by staff and volunteers and will be used in other habitat creation and maintenance areas of the Preserve. One prescribed fire was conducted by MNP staff and trained volunteers at the Preserve. In 2022, a native pollinator mix will be spread on this area.



Seasonal MNP interns planting native tree and shrub species at the Mequon Nature Preserve..



Local high school students removing invasive buckthorn at the Mequon Nature Preserve.



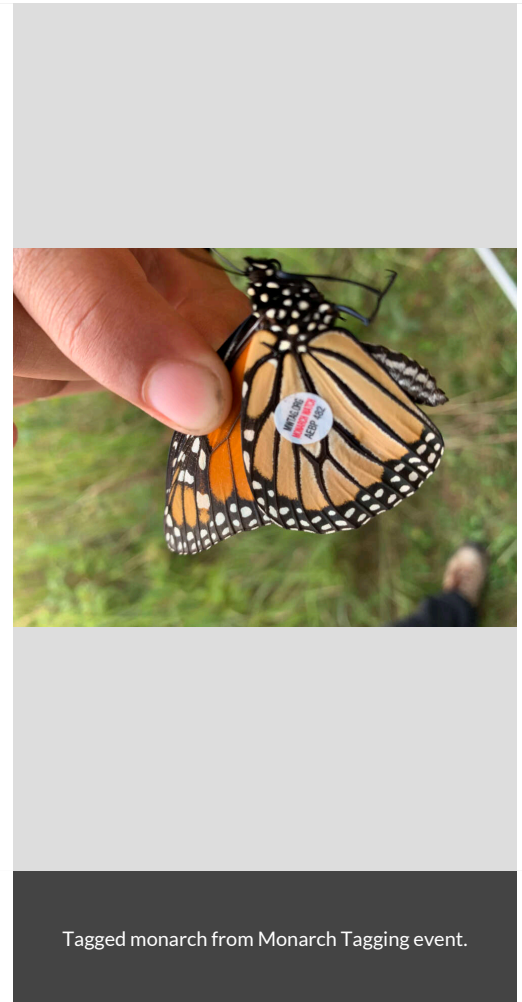
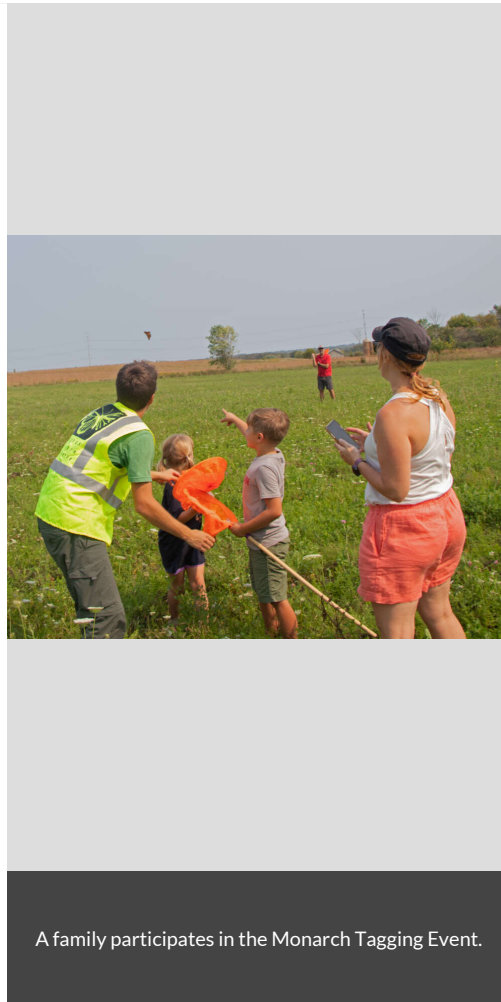
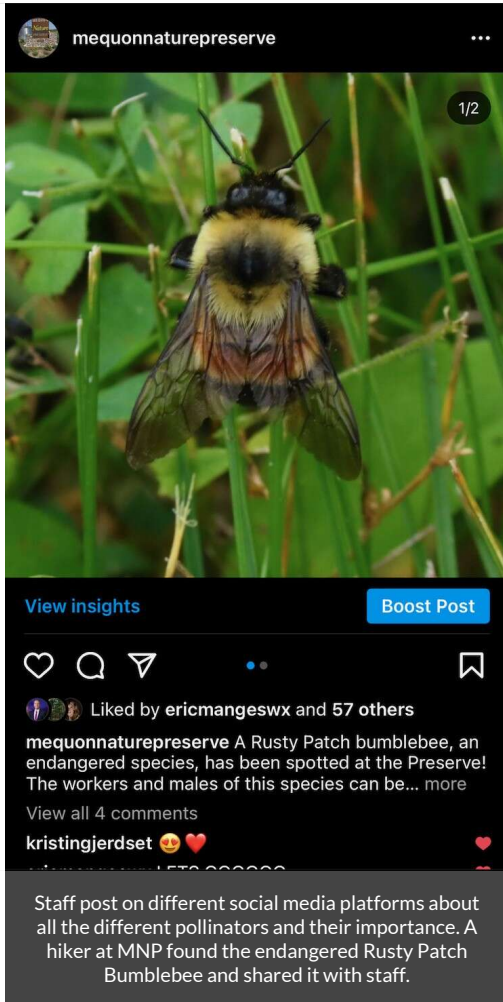
Educational signs are posted along trails. These signs explain the native flowers that can be seen in certain areas.

## Education & Outreach

The Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) Bee Club continued to host virtual or socially-distanced meetings. These meetings allow anyone interested in bees and other pollinators to join, and mainly focused on honeybee management and hive care. There are currently around 200 members of the MNP Bee Club and many of the members have hives at the MNP apiary. The City of Mequon was able to host an Arbor Day tree pick up on April 30th. Members of the community received free



native tree and shrub seedlings that are to be planted within the City of Mequon. On September 11th, Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) hosted a Monarch Tagging event. This event was open to the public and had over 40 attendees of all ages. Participants learned about the monarch biology, importance of pollinators, and ecosystem/habitat restoration. MNP staff stressed to the attendees the importance of planting native pollinator mixes in their backyards. Some individuals were even able to catch, tag, and release a monarch. On the same day, the City of Mequon held a Taste of Mequon event at City Hall. At this event, there was a table handing out informational sheets about monarchs, as well as a butterfly craft for children. Both the monarch event and the monarch table were led by the Mequon Bee City committee. MNP staff continue to create educational videos, posts, and signs explaining the importance of pollinators and habitat management.



## Policies & Practices

The City of Mequon and the Mequon Nature Preserve take pride in managing their natural areas with respect to pollinators and other wildlife. Using timely spot-mowing and precision herbicide spot treatments of invasive plant species



the City of Mequon and the Mequon Nature Preserve has decreased its herbicide use and subsequently decreased the effects that herbicides have on non-target species. Controlling the timing of herbicide applications and mowing allows managers to reduce the risk of harming insects that may be active on the flowering native plant species that are in close proximity to the invasive target species.

**Integrated Pest Management Plan:**

**Recommended Native Plant List:**

**Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:** [JN Native Guide .pdf](#)

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Kristin Gies, Committee Chair

