

# Bee City USA - Mequon

Report on 2020

## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, public events were put on hold for most of the year. Mequon Nature Preserve (MNP) did host some volunteer activities throughout the late summer and early fall. Approximately 75 volunteers participated in invasive species removal, native seed collecting, and native tree and shrub planting. Mequon Nature Preserve staff restored seven acres of agricultural fields and the channelized Trinity Creek back to its historical riparian and associated upland ecosystems. A native pollinator mix was planted, as well as milkweed species plant plugs, to help boost the pollinator potential. MNP staff planted over 3,000 native tree seedlings and 200 1"-3" caliper trees to aid in the restoration efforts of the 510-acre preserve. MNP staff and various volunteers partook in invasive species management throughout the preserve. Species focused on but not limited to were garlic mustard, dame's rocket, buckthorn, sweet clover, Canada thistle, cattail, phragmites, and reed canary grass. MNP staff also conducted prescribed fires on over 12 acres of the preserve. These areas consisted of mostly invasive cool season grasses and shrubs. These areas will be planted in 2021 with a native pollinator mix to increase the floristic quality of these ecological deserts that turf grasses are known for.





Dormant seeding of a native pollinator mix on a 7 acre restoration site at the Mequon Nature Preserve.

## Education & Outreach

Due to Covid- 19 restrictions, this year's pollinator events were adjusted to accommodate social distancing or went virtual when social distancing could not be met. In February, Mequon Nature Preserve was able to host its annual Winter Frolic event. Approximately 2000 individuals were in attendance for the event. Mequon Nature Preserve Bee Club had an educational booth where local experts shared about the importance of honeybees and other pollinators. The Mequon Nature Preserve Bee Club also held virtual meetings that were open to the public. These meetings focused on honeybee



management and hive care. The meetings were attended by approximately 150 individuals in total. Due to Covid-19 protocols, the annual City of Mequon Arbor Day celebration was cancelled. The City of Mequon hosted an Arbor Day tree pickup in lieu of the in-person event on April 29th. Members of the community received three native tree and shrub seedlings to be planted within the City of Mequon. On August 29th, Mequon Nature Preserve hosted a Monarch tagging event. The event was open to the public and had 35 attendees. Participants learned about monarch biology, pollinator health and ecosystem restoration. All of the events were led by the Mequon Bee City committee. Mequon Nature Preserve staff created educational videos to supplement the inability to host events. Videos covered a variety of aspects centered around environmental education. Topics included Monarch migration, invasive species management, insect ecology, and native ecosystem characteristics. The City of Mequon and Mequon Nature Preserve hope to resume in-person events in 2021 when it is safe to do so.



Tagged Monarch at the Mequon Nature Preserve Monarch tagging event.



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## 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:**

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Kritin Gies - Committee Chair.

