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Village of Glen Ellyn and Glen Ellyn Park District Collaborate to Save Illinois' State Insect

Glen Ellyn, IL – Inspired by Ben Franklin School third graders' Problem Based Learning (PBL) initiative, the Village of Glen Ellyn and the Glen Ellyn Park District have partnered to help save the Monarch Butterfly. On June 20, 2015, from 9am-11am, the two agencies will be planting milkweed at the municipal parking lot at Glenwood and Crescent, and also at 845 Pershing in Maryknoll Park. The public is invited, and is encouraged to pre-register on-line at www.gepark.org/monarch.html.

The goal of this joint initiative is to plant milkweed gardens at up to 100 public and private locations throughout the Glen Ellyn community. In an effort to reach that goal, the Village and Park District will be giving away up to three (3) free milkweed plants at the June 20 event for residents to take home and begin planting their own butterfly-friendly gardens.

In the fall of 2014, students from Ben Franklin School (School District 41) took on the issue of the dwindling population of the Illinois state insect, the Monarch butterfly. The precipitous decline of the Monarch population is due, in part, to the loss of milkweed plant---a critical element of caterpillar survival. The passionate grade school students brought the issue forward to the Village and Park District, which resulted in the inter-governmental collaboration.

For more information on the declining Monarch butterfly population, visit www.saveourmonarchs.org.

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