

City of Novi

Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation

About Fuerst Park and the Monarch Waystation

Fuerst Park, located at the corner of Ten Mile and Taft Roads, is an eight-acre park offering walking trails, outdoor sculptures, an amphitheater, and the historic Township Hall. The park was developed in 2009 and the land has an important place in Novi's history as the location of the first Novi Town Meeting held in 1830.

The Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation was planted in the spring of 2015 by the Novi Beautification Commission. The original garden was about 570 sq ft. Since then, the Beautification Commission has maintained the butterfly garden by weeding and occasionally adding more plants. In 2016, a 2400 sf area adjacent to the original waystation was added and seeded with a perennial butterfly mix.

This prairie style garden features a variety of Michigan/Midwest native flowers and grasses that provide food for butterflies and other pollinators. Many of the flowers create nectar and pollen for the adult butterflies throughout the growing season while larval host plants, such as milkweed, have leaves that are eaten by caterpillars to grow and become butterflies. Our Monarch Waystations is part of a nationwide effort to provide breeding and feeding areas for monarch butterflies to assist them in their annual migration to and from Mexico. Our garden is certified as an Official Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch and received an Award of Merit from the Keep Michigan Beautiful Awards in 2021.

Plants in the Garden

While this is not an exhaustive list of all the plants you might see at the Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation these are some of the most prolific plants in the Monarch waystation. You may want to consider adding some to your own yard - they are lovely, low maintenance, and our local pollinators will thank you!



Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

The Prairie Dock can grow very tall indeed, from 3 to 8 feet high. It features large, spade shaped basal leaves and numerous bright yellow flowers along and topping the stalk that bloom July to September. Hardy, long-lived, and drought tolerant.

Bloom Time: July to September

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Soil Requirements: Wet to Mesic

Water Requirements: Moderate



Missouri Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Ironweed boasts showy magenta flowers that bloom from August to September, making it an excellent draw for late summer butterflies and bees. Its bitter tasting leaves spare it from usual garden pests like deer and rabbits. It is also easy to grow, tolerating a variety of soil types and with a degree of drought resistance. Grows 3 to 6 ft tall.



Bloom Time: August to September

Light Requirements: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Requirements: Wet to Average

Water Requirements: Moderate



False Blue Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Fabaceae (Bean/Pea Family)

Growing 3 to 5 feet high, the blue wild indigo is a bushy, robust perennial. It's flowers are blue-purple and typically bloom from May to July in Michigan. Once established it is long-lived and very drought tolerant.

Bloom Time: May to July

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Soil Requirements: Mesic to Dry

Water Requirements: Moderate



False Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

This perennial, also called oxeye sunflower, ranges between 3-5 feet tall spreads 2-4 feet wide, and self-seeds. It blooms from July to September and attracts butterflies and other pollinators. Birds eat the seed, and its stems provide useful cover for beneficial insects.



Bloom Time: July to September

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Soil Requirements: Clay soil to rocky soil

Water Requirements: Low, but benefits from regular watering



Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

A hairy-stemmed perennial that grows 2 to 5 feet tall with numerous flowers that range from light to deep golden yellow. It is not considered a true sunflower because both the ray and disk florets of its flowerheads can produce seed whereas only the disk florets of sunflowers can produce seeds. Easily grows in most soil type.

Bloom Time: August to September

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Shade

Soil Requirements: Moist

Water Requirements: Moderate



Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Liliaceae (Lily Family)

This elegant looking relative of the Wild Onion grows 1 to 2 feet tall and features charming pink and white flowers. Much of the natural habitat of the Nodding Wild Onion has been destroyed by development, making it a relatively uncommon plant. It primarily attracts bees as its characteristic "nodding" makes it more difficult for other pollinators to visit. Its mild onion-y taste and smell keep it safe from most garden pests like deer and rabbits.

Bloom Time: July to August

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Sun

Soil Requirements: Moist to Mesic

Water Requirements: Moderate



Sand Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

The Sand Coreopsis is also known as Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, and Lanceleaf Tickseed. It can grow up to two feet tall and has large, showy yellow blossoms up to 3 inches in width. These can bloom from late spring to late summer, attracting a variety of insects, and can spread a fair amount if not competing with other plants. Finches are very fond of the seeds.



Bloom Time: June to July

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Soil Requirements: Mesic to Dry

Water Requirements: Low



Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Asclepiadaceae (Milkweed Family)

As evident by its name the Butterfly Milkweed is a great favorite of butterflies, and especially monarchs and swallowtails, for its nectar. It also attracts various bees, moths, and even hummingbirds. The butterfly milkweed features brilliant orange flowers that bloom throughout the summer months.



Bloom Time: July to August

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Soil Requirements: Mesic to Dry

Water Requirements: Low



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Wild Bergamot is also commonly known as Beebalm. It is a lovely aromatic herb that can grow up to 5-feet tall under the right conditions. The charming flowers come in shades of lavender, pink and white and have a fluffy, pompon-like appearance. Aside from its looks and attractions for pollinators Wild Bergamot is also commonly used to make herbal tea. Due to its flavor, it is not commonly grazed by deer or rabbits.



Bloom Time: July to August

Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Shade

Soil Requirements: Moist to Slightly Dry

Water Requirements: Moderate



Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

The Mountain Mint plant has very small white flowers that bloom in dense clusters that bloom atop stems up to 3-feet tall. Often the flowers are also spotted with a vivid purple. As is characteristic of the mint family, a refreshing scent is released when the leaves are crushed. Ironically, despite its name, the Mountain Mint is not typical in mountainous habitats. It is a very popular source of nectar for bees.

Bloom Time: July to August

Light Requirements: Partial Shade

Soil Requirements: Moist to Average

Water Requirements: Moderate



Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

The cheery yellow blooms of the Cup Plant will readily multiply once planted. It is so named for the “cup” formed by its leaves that can collect water – making it valued by birds and insects alike. Goldfinches are especially fond of the Cup Plant as both a seed and water resource. It grows from 4-feet up to an imposing 10-feet.



Bloom Time: July to September

Light Requirements: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Requirements: Moist

Water Requirements: Moderate



Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

Rosaceae (Rose Family)

The Wild Strawberry low growing with small, white flowers and tiny red fruits. It is one of the parent plants for the beloved cultivated strawberry. The Wild Strawberry is a plant of great value to the natural kingdom offering nectar, pollen, fruit, and foliage to a variety of birds, insects, and animals. It can make a unique, loose groundcover that readily spreads.



Bloom Time: April to June

Light Requirements: Full to Partial Sun

Soil Requirements: Dry

Water Requirements: Low

Sources:

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

<https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/index.htm>