

Monarch Domes & Monarch Dome+ Ecology Gardens

Neshanic Garden Club Sensory Garden:



A Monarch Dome was added to this already fabulous garden managed by the tireless efforts of the Neshanic Garden Club to beautify the community and help the environment since 1929. The Sensory Garden has substantial amounts of Common Milkweed thanks to the great efforts and impact of the Monarch Waystation project, to which the Monarch Dome added nectar sources that Monarchs find super-attractive and Orange Butterfly Milkweed as a superb drought-tolerant milkweed host plant.



The photo of the 2 Monarch caterpillars (left) is on a Common Milkweed plant just behind this Monarch Dome; Mom Monarchs wisely spread their eggs over as much milkweed as they can find in the vicinity, to give their children the best chance to survive and thrive. This is why it is very beneficial to have milkweed spread throughout communities in addition to the milkweed provided in gardens like MonarchWatch.org Monarch Waystations, National Wildlife Federation Gardens for Wildlife™, and the Monarch Dome.



Examples of Monarch Domes installed for Homeowners, Schools, and Houses of Worship



Municipal Building



The sign reads: “After thousands of years of fulfilling their incredible migration, the Monarch population has tragically decreased by as much as 90% in the last few decades. This garden features Monarch *Super-Attractors* and *Super-Hosts* plants that provide the best chance for them to find and utilize each Monarch support pillar ecology garden for food and raising their young. These gardens can be as small as just a few feet of your landscape - though each pillar will play a critical role in building the support framework for the virtual National Monarch Dome - a project to inspire compassionate people throughout our Community and our Nation to lend our Monarchs the helping hand they desperately need.” **QR code links to www.MonarchDome.com**

Examples of “Monarch Dome Plus” ecology gardens installed by Homeowners to help the Monarchs and many more pollinators in need:





“Butterfly Home & Haven” ecology garden at Public Park

In addition to a Monarch Dome, this garden features host plants for the New Jersey State Butterfly (the Black Swallowtail), the Common Buckeye, and several types of Skipper butterflies. These and numerous other flowers planted here are highly desirable and attractive nectar sources for a wide variety of pollinators- with the scarlet beebalm also among the evolutionary favorites of the beloved hummingbirds.

Township Pollinator Microhabitat: Autumn Colors (left: 1 month after planting, right: 1 year after planting)



Collage of just a few of the many visiting pollinators



Growth example: April 25, 2025 (left, as-planted), July 27, 2025 (right)



The first “Buckeyes helping Common Buckeyes” with Monarch Dome ecology garden I designed for a local family that are fervent Ohio State University fans!



In addition to the Monarch Dome flowers, this garden features *Verbena stricta* (host plant for the Common Buckeye butterfly) as well as Scarlet beebalm + Stokes Aster to give the Red and White flair of OSU! This photo is just after planting on July 1st- next year will be amazing!

Thanks to planting two native host plants (***Verbena hastata***, below left, and ***Verbena stricta***, right) for the exquisite **Common Buckeye** butterfly (Center) in our own yard, we saw ~15 Common Buckeyes in our yard this year- *compared to seeing just 1 in the previous 8 years*. You won't see a happier creature on Earth than a Common Buckeye feeding on the “Blue Fortune” Hyssop (*Agastache Foeniculum*)- they are so attracted to it, people will see and know the rewards of planting these host plants as the adults and newborns flock to this Hyssop for nourishment. And with such fabulous looking host-plant flowers that bloom for months (providing cherished nectar for many pollinators) and seed-heads that songbirds adore, thousands of OSU Buckeye graduates can be thrilled to help Nature while showing their school pride with this “Buckeyes helping Common Buckeyes” ecology garden

