

CONSERVING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN AN URBAN SETTING: A CASE STUDY IN ST. LOUIS, MO

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What we will cover



- St. Louis' Milkweeds for Monarchs Program
- Urban Wildlife Conservation Program and St. Louis Area National Wildlife Refuge Monarch projects
- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and Ecological Places in Cities (EPIC)
- Questions (15 minutes)

Urban Wildlife Conservation Program and Monarch Butterflies



UWCP

- USFWS's Urban Wildlife Conservation Program
 - Established in 2011 from Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation
 - Creating a connected conservation constituency



Urban Monarch Activities

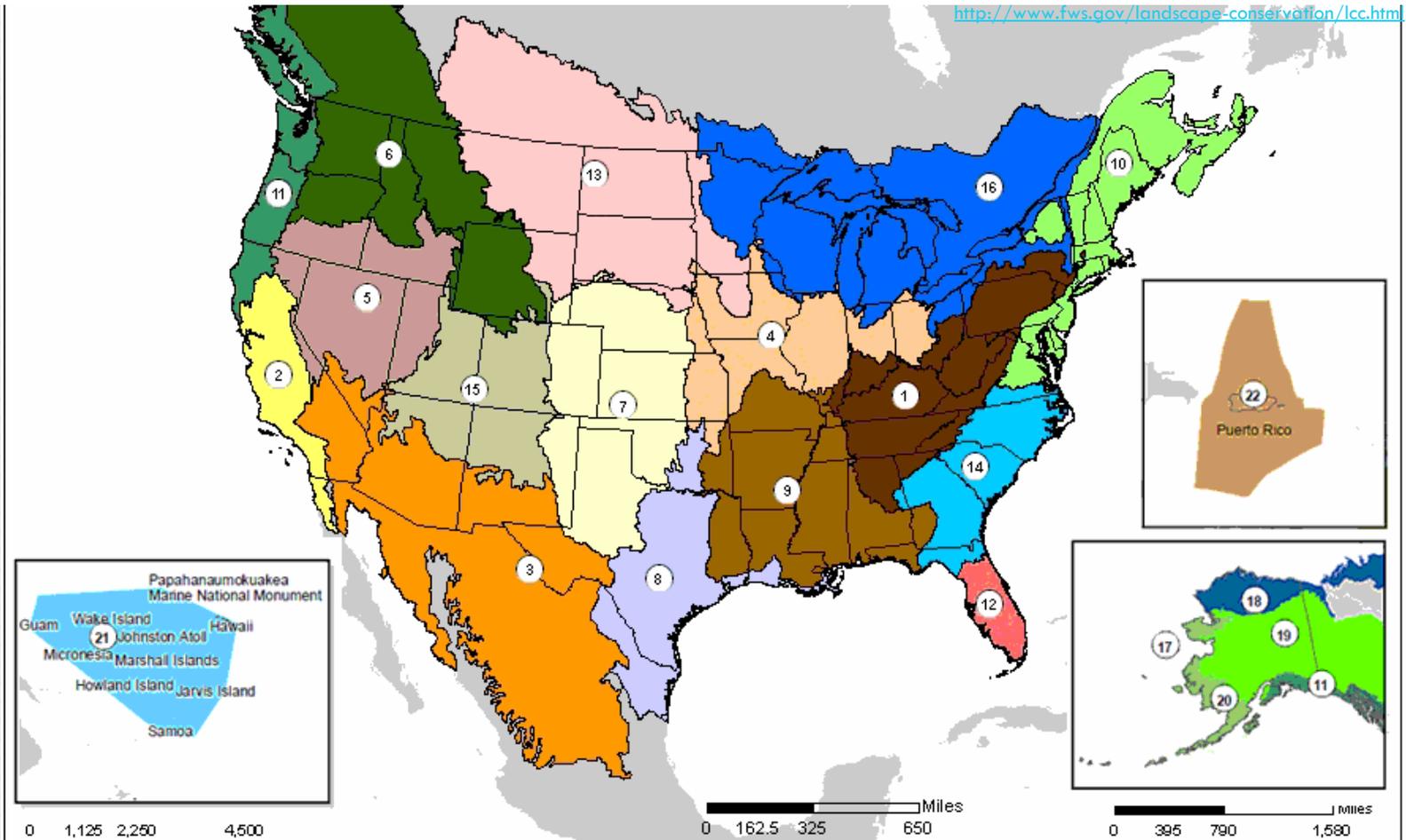


- Milkweeds for Monarchs
 - Interpretive signage
 - Funding and staff support for planting city gardens
- 21st Century Interns
 - Monarch butterfly education and outreach
 - Engaging volunteers

Urban Monarch Activities continued...

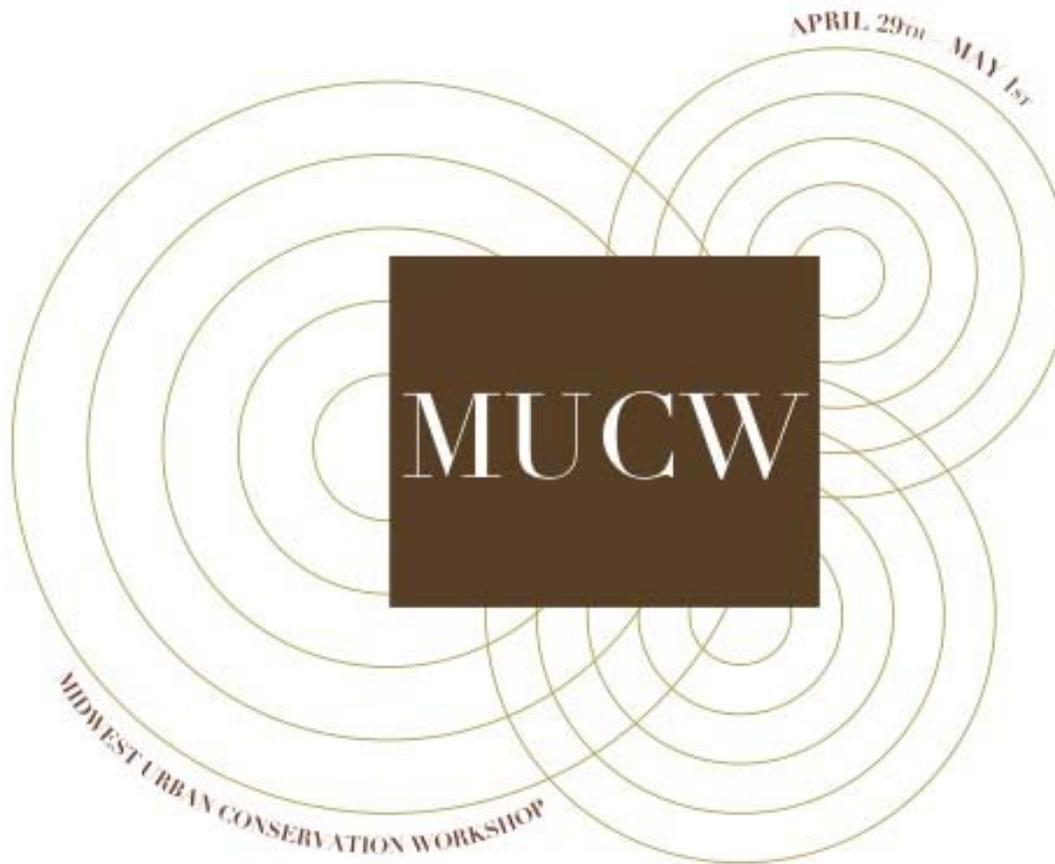


- Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park
 - 6 acres of pollinator habitat of a 50 acre restoration
 - St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department, St. Louis Audubon Society, Missouri Department of Conservation, Forest Re-Leaf, Wild Ones, Missouri Master Naturalists and FWS
- St. Louis Earth Day
 - Pollinator education



Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- Applied conservation science partnerships:
 - Provide science and technical expertise needed to support conservation planning at landscape scales
 - Promote collaboration among members & create shared conservation goals



The Midwest Urban Conservation Workshop

46 Participants...5 States (IA, IL, IN, MO, MN)...in St. Louis , MO... Take away: brainstormed how to create a larger urban conservation network, Ecological Places In Cities (EPIC).

EPIC -- Vision/Mission and Goals

- **VISION:** An interconnected network of cities and landscapes where people live in harmony with nature.
- **MISSION:** Provide people living in cities with resources to harmonize people, wildlife, natural and working landscapes and to cultivate the love of life and living systems.
- **GOALS** *Corresponding functional group is included at the end of the goal in (*Group*).
 1. Revitalize communities through reconnecting people with nature in urban areas (*Community Revitalization*).
 2. Champion wildlife conservation and habitat restoration to establish ecologically resilient urban communities within their larger landscapes (*Wildlife Conservation, Habitat Conservation, Landscape Planning*).
 3. Showcase how conservation and restoration promote thriving green economies and community health and cohesion (*Wildlife Conservation, Habitat Conservation, Community Revitalization*).
 4. Expand educational and professional development opportunities for those interested in urban conservation (*Education and Train the Trainer*).
 5. Facilitate conversations on the latest scientific research and practices related to the role and importance of ecological places in cities (*Research*).

Application for \$2 Million of Director's Funds for Monarch Conservation by FWS

- City of St. Louis, Milkweeds for Monarchs
- Indianapolis Zoo, Monarch Outreach
- Des Moines Blank Park Zoo, Plant.Grow.Fly



To Find out more about Projects that were funded:
<http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/projects.html>

Milkweeds for Monarchs Funding

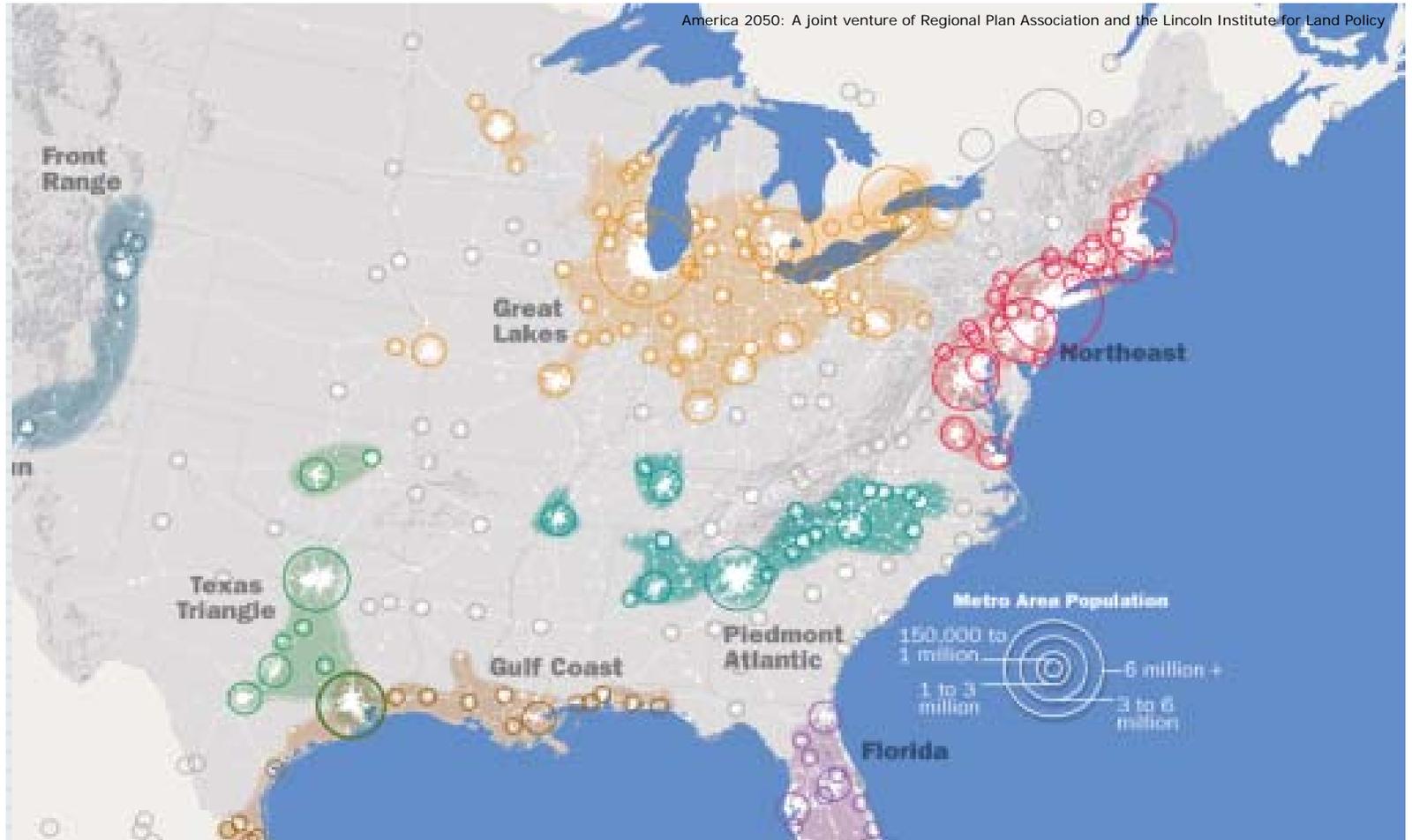
- \$40,000 from Director's Fund
 - Focused on Education and Outreach
 - Working with 20 schools/100 educators
 - Builds capacity for Neighborhood Stabilization Offers (28)
 - Milkweeds for Monarchs Educators Guide



<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2015/06/01/helping-butterflies-battle-back-through-milkweeds-for-monarchs/>

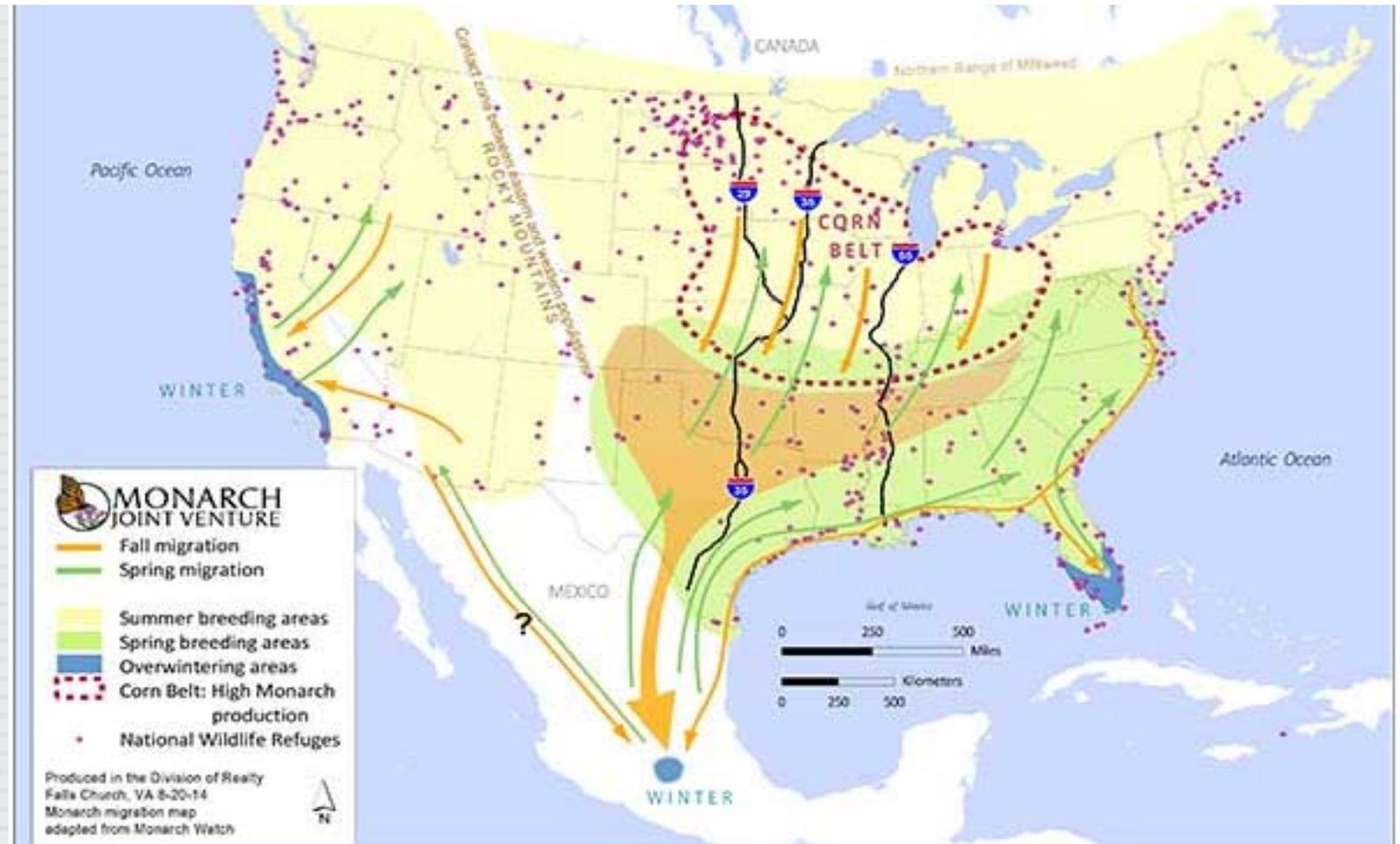
Milkweeds for Monarchs Funding

- \$40,000 from ETPBR LCC
 - Focused on Monarch Garden & Urban Prairie Research
 - 7 urban prairies/30 large monarch gardens will be monitored for:
 - Floristic/vegetation composition
 - Plant species presence/absence; rank abundance
 - Pollinator attraction
 - Understand which plant species attract/support pollinators
 - Community acceptance, appreciation and benefits
 - Eco-literacy/socioeconomic survey
 - Ethnographic observation, interviews and focus groups



Urban Monarch Conservation Efforts

- 21st Century Conservation Service Corps
- Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, National Pollinator Garden Network
- Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EMCL)
- Opportunities are endless: Airports, Right of Ways, backyards, and more!



A Monarch's View of a City

The emerging multi-LCC EPIC Network integrates the ecological and urban communities to guide and promote conservation practices, such as those across the monarch flyway. Specifically, this project will lay the groundwork for design principles to guide the development, testing and deployment of future urban conservation for the Monarch butterfly across the Eastern half of the country.

EPIC Monarch LCD Project

- LCD framework that any city can pick up and use to create a Monarch's View of their city at all scales
- Three total LCDs will be completed for Chicago, IL and 2 other cities (TBD)
- \$150,000 in on the ground Monarch Conservation Projects
- Urban Monarch Conservation Workshop - Fall 2016

| Scale | Area | Main stakeholder group(s) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Backyards | 0.01 acres | homeowners |
| 2. Underutilized spaces, vacant lots, community gardens | 0.1 acres | neighborhood organizations |
| 3. Schoolyard | ~1.0 acre | school boards |
| 4. Public park or private corporate property | ~10 acres | city department staff, corporations, faith-based organizations, golf courses etc. |
| 5. Intra-city corridor | ~100 acres | urban planners, mayors, city councils |
| 6. Multi-city pathway | ~100,000 acres (central flyway) | regional, state or federal planners and program managers |





Photo: http://people.umass.edu/identel/urban_conference.html

QUESTIONS?

Interested in being a part of EPIC?

Contact Kristin Shaw, EPIC Urban Conservation Coordinator ETPBR LCC

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More Information about what the FWS is doing for Monarch Conservation:

<http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/>