

# MORAGA FOR MONARCHS

Ecology

Beauty

Community



## THE CHALLENGE:

California's monarch butterflies are vanishing; there has been over a 99% decrease in Monarch Butterfly population in California since the 1980s. Moraga is part of the Monarchs' critical coastal range; Rancho Laguna Park is eight miles from an established Monarch overwintering site at Lake Merritt. Citizens of Moraga can support a chance for recovery by providing much needed nectar and larvae host habitat for the few surviving Monarchs migrating back from overwintering sites this spring and beyond. Conservation work done now can still make a difference. Any work done will also help other native pollinators experiencing critical declines. In the process of helping Monarchs, we will enhance town beauty and fellowship.

## "MORAGA FOR MONARCHS" MISSION

Moraga Garden Club has established the "**Moraga for Monarchs**" Project. Our goal is to help repopulate monarchs throughout town. We are collaborating with local entities (St. Mary's College, the Town of Moraga, Moraga Garden Center, service organizations, and wildlife experts) to deliver cohesive, sustainable support. Our goal is three-fold:

- Educate our citizens to encourage appropriate Monarch assistance
- Establish attractive public Monarch habitats
- Provide plants to support fire-safe, Monarch-friendly private landscaping

The ultimate vision is to have hillsides infused with beautiful monarch nectar-rich, native wildflowers and milkweed. Within town, we envision attractive, well-groomed Monarch-supportive gardens. In private yards, we encourage patches of Monarch-specific plants. Working in harmony, private neighborhoods with even small yards can create inviting corridors for butterflies

## THE 2021 PLAN

Our plan begins by converting the former par course at Rancho Laguna Park into an attractive Monarch habitat spring 2021. Rancho Laguna Park is located at the west end of Camino Pablo. The garden will be a certified Monarch Waystation, meaning it will provide the necessary elements to encourage Monarchs to visit, feed and breed in Moraga. The garden will be used for teaching both homeowners and school children; it will also contain educational signage about Monarch butterflies and plants they need to survive. We plan to use this site to begin a three-year Monarch support effort that ultimately could expand to other meadow-like locations.



## THE GARDEN PLAN:

The Rancho Laguna garden layout will consider aesthetics, existing park usage, fire codes, the known presence of deer, water requirements as well as public and pet safety. We plan to use the center circle as a fenced and irrigated planting area, with access limited to garden maintenance. Eventually, we envision benches on either side of the garden so citizens can enjoy viewing flowers and visiting pollinators. Benches, and perhaps decorative tiles within the fence may be offered as fundraising instruments to help finance the waystation installation.

## RESOURCES AND FUNDING:

To date Moraga Garden Club has conducted extensive research, developed a qualified team of club members and community partners, built a resource database, propagated over 1100 Monarch-supportive plants, and collaborated with a school on a new pollinator conservation teaching unit for Spring 2021. The Garden Club has provided funds to kickstart this project. We anticipate the waystation being completed using manual help and financial donations from local groups, business and citizens. Discounted goods and/or services will also be solicited from vendors. We have established support and collaborative relationships with Saint Mary's College, Moraga Park Foundation, Moraga Park and Recreation Department and Commission, Moraga Garden Center and multiple local social clubs.

## GARDEN INSTALLATION:

Ideally installation of plants should occur in Spring 2021; most additional planting will be phased over the subsequent 12 weeks, with some planting extending into the fall. The majority of plants are being propagated by Moraga Garden Club members. All of the plants chosen are deer-resistant, most are native to California, and all adhere to the MOFD-banned landscaping mandate.

## HOW TO HELP TODAY:

Financial donations are needed and appreciated! Please, make checks payable to:  
Moraga Garden Club, include "Monarchs" in the note section and mail to:

P.O. Box 6062  
Moraga, CA 94570-6062

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER: EMAIL [MoragaforMonarchs@gmail.com](mailto:MoragaforMonarchs@gmail.com)



Proposed Waystation Site at Rancho Laguna Park from West. Planting area is 2600 sq feet, 58 feet in diameter, 170 feet in circumference, and makes up .6% of Park space.



Remesh wire and redwood fencing allows for maximum visibility and in keeping with rustic setting.



Site with proposed typical vegetation and type of signage under consideration. Opportunities for art installations are budget dependent (not in amount sought to date).

*Working together to support iconic Monarch butterflies — while there is still hope for them — could be a gift for generations. Thank you!*