



# The Monarch Journey

Growing Communities of Biodiversity

Monarch Awards Applicant Newsletter

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## Journey Notes

Welcome - Thank you for applying to the Monarch Awards. By caring for your front garden with nature in mind, you are part of a growing community of Hamilton gardeners creating habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Whether your garden is just beginning or well established, every step you take helps support biodiversity where you live.

## Updates

Applications will be reviewed shortly, and you will receive an email confirming whether your garden will be included in this year's site visits. Beginning July 13, Monarch Awards Team members will assess front gardens. This is a friendly assessment, not a consultation; you do not need to be present, though feel free to say hello if you are. In September, applicants will receive written **highlights** and **suggestions** for next steps to grow the garden's ecological value.

## Resource to Explore

During the garden visit the Monarch Award Team will be looking at eco-friendly gardening practices such as native plants, soil management, layers and more. Here's a quick overview:

Link to: [Eco-Friendly Gardening Practices](#).

Contact us if you have any questions at:

[monarchawards.hmg@gmail.com](mailto:monarchawards.hmg@gmail.com)



## Eco-Gardening Tips

HELPFUL TIPS

### Think in Seasons, Not Just Flowers:

An ecological garden offers food over a long period - from early spring into fall. Take a look at your garden and ask: What has already bloomed? What is blooming now? What will still be feeding pollinators in August, September and October.

**Try this:** Make a quick list of your spring, summer and fall bloomers. If one season is thin, that may be a good place to add a few native plants for next year.

**One Small Action:** Late season flowers are especially helpful because many pollinators are still active and preparing for migration or winter. Consider adding: New England Aster, Smooth Blue Aster, Zigzag Goldenrod, Showy Goldenrod, Anise Hyssop, Black-eyed Susan, Boneset, Joe-Pye weed (if there is room).

Check Out this Resource: [Pollinator Plants of the Great Lakes Region, Xerces Society](#)



2025 Monarch Award Recipient

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