

1,000 Mile Pilot

1,000 Acre Plan

84
Pollinator
Zones
Since 2017

PRAIRIES
IN PROGRESS

Over
1,300
Acres
Since 2017

Our future flies on the wings of pollinators...

Each Monarch Research program is focused on one goal: Rebuilding native habitat to levels that will sustain our pollinator populations. Each habitat restoration program is designed to create new Pollinator Zones™, in large and small tracts, on both private and public land. Our programs are currently targeted at Linn County habitat restoration, with plans underway for expansion to other communities. Thanks to our partners and volunteers, we've been making significant progress!

1,000 Mile Pilot: Restoring Iowa's Roadsides

The 1,000 Mile Pilot is a groundbreaking partnership with Linn County Secondary Roads to convert 1,000 miles of roadside rights-of-way into thriving pollinator habitats. By planting mini-prairies in secondary roadside ditches, the project transforms underutilized land into vital ecosystems. County roadsides make up 46% of public lands in Iowa, with Linn County alone managing 2,200 ditch miles. At the conclusion of the pilot in fall 2024, a total of 52,448 plots were completed.



The 1,000 Mile Pilot demonstrates how collaboration and innovative use of public land can support pollinators, reduce maintenance costs, and create replicable models for sustainable roadside management.

1,000 Acre Plan: Restoring Pollinator Habitat

This public-private partnership between the City of Cedar Rapids, City of Marion, and Linn County has grown beyond its initial vision. Launched in 2017, the program set out to restore 1,000 acres of public land—spanning parks, trails, and golf courses—into thriving pollinator habitats by 2020. Thanks to its success, the program has surpassed expectations, transforming over 1,330 acres and continuing to expand. With funding from MRP for seed and other supplies, this collaborative effort is bringing biodiversity back to our landscapes.



By restoring and expanding these vital habitats, this program plays a critical role in supporting the pollinators that sustain our agriculture, food supply, and natural ecosystems



Read more about our Monarch Zones, Pollinator Zones, and Native Oasis - our innovative program for creating your own pollinator sanctuary in your backyard - at monarchresearch.org