

Butterfly Garden Adopt-A-Plant Program
Decorah Parks and Recreation
PO Box 513
Decorah, IA 52101

History of the Butterfly Garden

When the prairie was planted in 2002, an additional \$15,000 was donated to the City of Decorah to establish a butterfly garden. The butterfly garden was designed to provide larval food plants for butterfly caterpillars, and a nectar source for adult butterflies.

The garden also serves as an educational area for visitors to learn about the various plants and butterflies that may be seen in the main prairie area. Specimen plantings are indicated with numbered signs correlating to the map of the butterfly garden.



Brochure photos courtesy of Ellen Macdonald



CONTACT INFORMATION

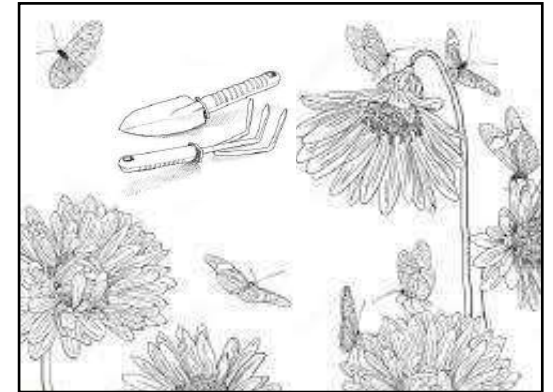
Decorah Parks and Recreation
400 Claiborne Drive— PO Box 513
Decorah, IA 52101

(563) 382-4158 parkrec@decorahia.org

<https://parks.decorahia.org>

ADOPT-A-PLANT PROGRAM

Decorah Community Prairie Butterfly Garden



WELCOME to our prairie gardener's community and our Adopt-A-Plant Program. As you garden, we hope you will get to know this special place and enjoy its offerings:

- a special habitat for butterflies and other pollinators
- an introduction to our local native plants found in our community prairie
- a connection with our native pre-settlement environment
- a sense of place that we call home
- a quiet peaceful haven of wildness within the city
- a pleasant way to serve our community



"It is for us to take this day, this joy, and this happiness, and make it ours." ~ Jens Jensen, Native Plantings Advocate, b.1860—d.1951

Once you have adopted and been introduced to your special plant species as identified in the Butterfly Garden, you will be responsible for its care throughout the growing season from May to October.

The plants are in plots of approximately 6' by 8'. Your goal will be to remove all other plants than your adopted plant species. You will have a helper to get you started.



We welcome you to join the prairie gardener volunteers on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 am. They garden every Tuesday morning from May to October, or you may work at a time of your choosing.

You will be provided:

- water and composted mulch for plants
- disposal of garden refuse
- a shaded spot for a needed rest
- friendly neighbors strolling through
- helpful directions and information
- a contact person for needed help

Your responsibilities will be:

- supply your own tools
- place your garden refuse in the compost area
- spread composted mulch on your cultivated bare ground
- water any transplants until established
- clean off the sidewalk where you have been working
- record your time on the timesheet in the black mailbox
- check regularly for new weeds to remove through the season
- collect the seeds as they mature and ripen
- learn about your adopted plant(s)



As you garden we hope you will learn about our native plantings and plant some in your own garden. Certain native pollinators depend upon specific native plants, such as the Monarch Butterfly depends on Milkweed plants for its life cycle.

Since there has been a proven decline in our pollinators and since over 80% of our food production depends on our native pollinators, we encourage more native planting in our gardens.

ADOPT-A-PLANT VOLUNTEER FORM



First and Last Name:

Address:

City, State Zip:

Cell Phone (or best phone to contact you):

Email Address:

Any comments or questions:

The contributions of many part-time gardeners like you are needed for continuing to reach the goals of the volunteers who created the Decorah Community Prairie Butterfly Garden in 2002.