

Mississippi River

Operation Pollination

Partnership

between

Rotary District 6250; Mississippi River Parkway Commission; City of La Crosse, WI; North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area; Pollinator Partnership; Monarch Joint Venture; Pollinator Friendly Alliance; Homegrown National Park; Operation Pollination; and ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group).

The undersigned, all having an interest in protecting natural resources in the ten state Mississippi River corridor, recognize the critical importance of pollinator habitat both restored and maintained on public and private lands, particularly found within our geographic area. Through cooperation, collaboration and outreach resulting from this non-binding Pollinator Partnership, an interconnected mosaic of pollinator habitat may be developed to help restore and maintain populations of pollinator species throughout this region.

- ✈ WHEREAS, pollinators include butterflies, bees, some birds, bats, and other insects that play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, more than 85% of the world's flowering plants and many of the world's food crops depend on pollination to be successful, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, given the breadth, severity, and persistence of pollinator losses, it is critical to expand efforts to reverse these losses and restore populations to healthy levels, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, all organizations of this Partnership have a goal to help increase pollinator habitat/education throughout the Mississippi River corridor, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, working together, we can increase capacity to reach out to

- ✈ organizations and individuals throughout our region with information and education about pollinators and their need for protection, and

ROTARY and ESRAG

- ✈ WHEREAS, the leadership and impact of Rotarians volunteering to improve communities is a hallmark of Rotary, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, "Support for the Environment" is Rotary's 7th Area of Focus, and
- ✈ WHEREAS Rotary districts/clubs are well positioned to consider supporting this *Operation Pollination* Partnership as a 7th Area of Focus environmental framework, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (*ESRAG*) supports the goals of *Operation Pollination*, and,
- ✈ WHEREAS *Operation Pollination* is built on Rotary's 4-way test and it is a district/club's choice to participate, and
- ✈ WHEREAS once a district signs this *Operation Pollination* Partnership, all Clubs are included in it AND it is the sole decision of individual clubs whether they will engage in pollinator projects, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, more than 65 Rotary Districts worldwide are already part of *Operation Pollination*, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, Rotarians are known throughout the world to be leaders willing to address some of the world's most pressing issues, including critical environmental issues, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, Rotarians are exemplary networkers and community partners, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, Rotary accomplishes much good work by partnering with like-minded organizations, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, Rotary Leaders Jennifer Jones, Gordon McNally, and Mark Maloney have all signed *Operation Pollination* Partnerships either as President, President-Elect, or Past President (as a witness) as well as leaders from districts across the planet, and

MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION

- ✈ WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, as well as multiple counties and cities along the Mississippi River have a goal to protect the natural resources along the River, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission has made the strategic decision that helping protect pollinators is a project that members can support, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the Environmental, Recreational, and Agricultural Committee of the Commission fully supports this effort, and

NORTH WOODS AND WATERS OF THE ST. CROIX HERITAGE AREA

- ✈ WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are regional connectors and conveners with the capability to bring a large number local partners to a project, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the National Heritage Areas, located along/near the Mississippi River share a common goal of conserving our nation's natural resources, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas throughout the country are already demonstrating that protecting and enhancing pollinator habit is an important part of their mission, and

CITY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

- ✈ WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse, WI supports the goals of this Partnership, and has a conservation goal to protect the Mississippi River's and our Nation's natural resources, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse, WI is a leader in this effort, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse, WI will consider examining its activities as they relate to pollinator protection and will consider modifying those activities if warranted, and

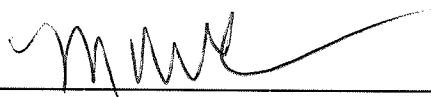
POLLINATOR ORGANIZATIONS

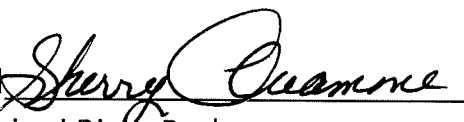
- ✈ WHEREAS, the pollinator organizations of this Partnership have a pollinator conservation goal and pollinator education goal, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the pollinator organizations of this Partnership have a national (and even international) reach that can influence all levels of government and the private for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, as well as all residents of the Mississippi River corridor, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, these pollinator organizations are well-positioned to help educate the other collaborators of this Partnership, and
- ✈ WHEREAS, the organization Pollinator Partnership, has offered to provide appropriate pollinator education and habitat restoration training at a later date (tbd).
- ✈ WHEREAS, this Partnership helps all pollinator organizations achieve their goals (as well as Operation Pollination Goals).

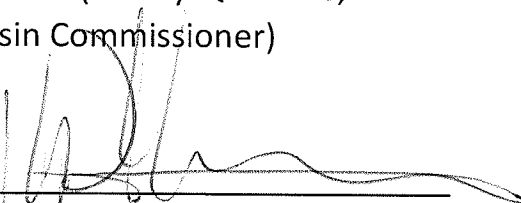
Operation Pollination **Goals**

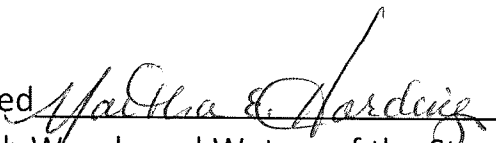
- **Increase and improve pollinator habitat** by identifying existing pockets of pollinator habitat and helping develop a nectar corridor for migratory and non-migratory pollinator species.
- **Develop strategic partnerships** for improving or creating habitat for pollinators and providing educational opportunities.
- **Encourage action** through voluntary, collaborative, and locally led conservation actions such as planting pollinator gardens, building bee blocks and avoiding or limiting pesticide use.
- **Provide education** to those interested in increasing their knowledge of pollinators and improving pollinator habitat.
- **Promote community science** opportunities to track key pollinator species populations and share research and resources about restoring pollinator habitat.

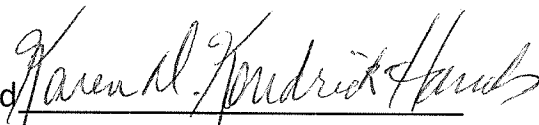
*THEREFORE, we, the signers of this
**Mississippi River Operation
Pollination Partnership**, declare that
it is our goal to support the
conservation and education goals of
Operation Pollination, and to
collaboratively and strategically
protect and enhance pollinator
species and their habitat on public
and private lands throughout our
geographic area.*

Signed 
Rotary International (District 6250)
Michelle McGrath, District Governor


Signed 
Mississippi River Parkway
Commission (Sherry Quamme,
Wisconsin Commissioner)

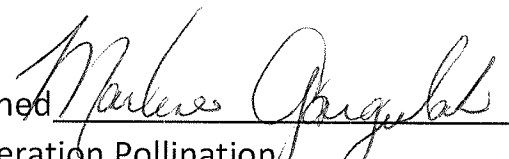
Signed 
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin
Mayor Mitch Reynolds

Signed 
North Woods and Waters of the St.
Croix Heritage Area (Marty Harding,
Board Member - past Chair)

Signed 
Environmental Sustainability Rotary
Action Group (ESRAG); Karen
Kendrick-Hands, co-founder.


Signed Sara Wittenberg
Pollinator Partnership;
Bee Friendly Gardening Coordinator
(signed electronically at
<https://esrag.org/pollinators>)


Signed Laurie Schneider
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Laurie Schneider, Executive Director
(signed electronically at
<https://esrag.org/pollinators>)


Signed Marlene Gargulak
Operation Pollination
Marlene Gargulak, co-founder

Signed Chris Stein 9/28/23
Monarch Joint Venture
Chris Stein - for Executive Director
Wendy Caldwell)

Signed Brandon Hough
Homegrown National Park®
Brandon Hough, Executive Director
(signed electronically at
<https://esrag.org/pollinators>)

Witness 
Signed Roz Schnick
Roz Schnick, Mississippi River
Advocate (visionary of the *Mississippi
River Operation Pollination
Partnership*)