

2026 Talking Points for the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program

Participants

Updated annually at the start of each year.

We are thrilled that you are willing to contribute your time and effort to participate in the [Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program](#). Protecting and restoring habitat is a crucial step in the conservation of pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates. We are excited about working with you to create and sustain habitat. This document provides key talking points to help you share this program and your amazing project with the rest of the world.

Social Media and Tagging Xerces

When posting about the [Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program](#), you can help us spread the word about invertebrate and habitat conservation by including context about the Xerces Society's mission and our habitat kit program for any of your followers who don't already know.

Please tag us in your posts as @XercesSociety so we can see your progress!

Here are links to our social media pages:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#) (@xercessociety)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Bluesky](#)

General Xerces Information

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is a donor-supported nonprofit organization that protects our world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Xerces works throughout North America to conserve pollinators and other invertebrates, protect endangered species, and reduce pesticide use and impacts. Our staff uses applied research, policy advocacy, public education, and on-the-ground habitat improvement to advance meaningful, long-term conservation. Xerces is the largest invertebrate conservation organization in the world. For over 50 years, we have

been champions of Earth's most biodiverse and overlooked animals, protecting the life that sustains us. Learn more at xerces.org.

General Habitat Kit Program Information

Disclaimer: The Xerces Habitat Kit Program is a community resource, not a grant.

- Pollinators are essential to our environment. The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species.
- Many pollinators are in decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. They need our help. Creating habitat is one of the best ways to support these important animals.
- One of the best ways to help declining pollinators and other wildlife is to restore high-quality habitats. Through the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program, we provide plants and resources to folks who are willing to invest time, energy, and resources.
- We offer carefully selected, native, and regionally appropriate plant material directly to our partners for shovel-ready projects. We are currently offering habitat kits in eight regions of the United States to qualifying partners.
- Project proposals are selected based on several factors, including the ability to protect habitat areas from pesticide exposure.
- Since 2019, the Xerces Society Habitat Kit Program has distributed over 500,000 plants to our partners, free of charge.

Detroit

The Detroit Habitat Kit Program began in 2023. Over the past 3 years, Xerces has given away 11,136 plants (including 576 milkweed) to support 81 projects.

Plant materials for the 2026 kits were sourced from [Wildtype Native Native Plant Nursery](#) and [Keep Growing Detroit](#).

Problems invertebrates are facing

- With approximately 843 species of butterflies and moths and 465 species of bees, Michigan boasts an impressive diversity of insect pollinators.
- Across the country, pollinator habitat has been lost due to urban development, including the monarch butterfly, which was recently proposed as a listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Both pollinators and beneficial insects provide important services in urban landscapes, especially farms and gardens. Fortunately, many pollinators can thrive in urban areas where landscaping includes a diversity of native flowering plant species free of pesticides.
- Community members in Detroit are working to change the common public perception that native plants look “messy” to native plants being an important and desired habitat in Detroit.

How our habitat kits create solutions

- Partners planting the kits include community-serving urban farms and community gardens from all over the [Detroit and Metro area](#).
- Each kit contains more than 100 climate-smart native plants that are multi-functional for pollinators, beneficial insects, other wildlife, and people in the community. A variety of flowers in the kits bloom from spring to fall to provide resources throughout the seasons.
- Signage and communicating intention are an important part of the Detroit habitat kit program. Pollinator Habitat signs are currently offered in 3 languages: English, Spanish, and Arabic, and individual metal signs are provided to label each kit plant.
- The Detroit kit program is intentionally community-centered, where in-person technical assistance and support are available to partners, as well as educational workshops and other opportunities to network with other kit partners.

Looking for other ways to help? Take the [Pollinator Pledge](#) and support community science efforts such as [Xerces Community Science Projects](#) and [Urban Bees of the Great Lakes Region Project](#).