

Quarterly Newsletter of the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

EARTHCONNECT



Volunteer picking up litter at our Roadside Clean-up, illustration by Grace Turich

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01

A Note from our Director

WRITTEN BY ERIN KENNEDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, we're reminded once again of nature's rhythms and resilience. Fall is a time of transition, and as the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, we embrace this season as both a moment to reflect on our impact and a time to renew our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Over the past year, your support has allowed us to expand our advocacy efforts, host meaningful community recycling events, and advance local conservation initiatives. From our roadside cleanups and educational BMP programs to our ongoing efforts to protect our groundwater and encouraging residents to compost their food scraps through our permanent drop-off location in Woodstock, we continue to work toward a healthier environment for all.

This fall, we're especially excited about the momentum behind our second Repair Fair in conjunction with the Green Living Expo at MCC on November 1st. Based off

the success of our first Repair Fair in April we can offer additional opportunities to have items repaired instead of replacing them thanks to our skilled volunteers. The Defenders love bringing these new opportunities to the residents of McHenry County. These new events allow us to engage with new residents we might not have connected with in the past.

As Executive Director, I am continually inspired by the energy and dedication of our members, volunteers, and partners. You are the backbone of this organization, and your commitment makes everything we do possible.

Let's carry this momentum into the colder months ahead. I invite you to stay engaged, volunteer, attend one of our events, become a member, or simply spread the word about our important mission.

Thank you for being a Defender.

Volunteer Opportunities at Nostalgic Pioneer Christmas Tree Farm

WRITTEN BY ANNE BASTEN, FUNDRAISING ACTION TEAM CHAIR

Defenders founding members, the Howenstines and their family, invite you to cut your own Organically grown Christmas tree and support the Defenders, too. This is a major fundraiser for the Defenders as we provide a large portion of the help on sale days and all the baked goods for the warming house sold to visitors. Candle dipping, woodworking and other historic activities are also available around the campfires, and all of this require volunteers to make these activities happen. Come and spend several hours getting into the winter spirit either cutting your own tree or volunteering to assist visitors get ready for their Christmas season. Local craft vendors will have gift items available with a portion of the sales also going toward the Defenders.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Welcome Greeters at the front gate**
- Tractor Driver**
- Shaker/Baler of Cut Trees**
- Warming House Cashier**
- Lunch Server for Volunteers**
- Historic Craft Assistance**
- Home Bakers**

If you would like to work as a volunteer at the farm (inside or outside), baking for this event, or providing craft items, please contact Anne Basten at 815-344-5647 (leave a message) or basten1@sbcglobal.net to find out more. We would love to get some new people involved in addition to our faithful volunteers. (If you worked last year, we have your name and number but please call Anne if you don't hear from us by Nov 1st). Please, do not call the Howenstines directly to volunteer as the Fundraising Team has taken over this task and is handling the scheduling. Volunteers who work a full day or more are eligible for a free tree.

The farm is located at 4614 Pioneer Road just north of McHenry. Open 9AM to 4PM, November 28th, 29th and 30th as well as the weekend of December 6th and 7th. All trees are \$100 again this year, payable by Cash or Check (made out to Pioneer Tree Farm).



Community Fridge Coming Soon

Creating a Solution for Food Waste

WRITTEN BY CECILIA CARMAN, WASTE REDUCTION ACTION TEAM CO-CHAIR

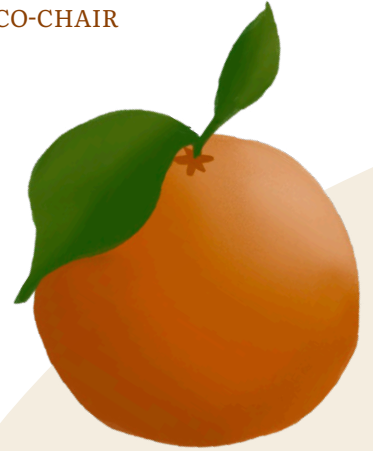
INSPIRING ACTION

Three years ago, the Waste Reduction Action Team embarked on beginning a Community Fridge Program. Inspired by Chicago's and Evanston's Programs, we began to do our research. We held meetings with Evanston's leaders and learned how the program was initiated and continues to operate. They have been extremely helpful and have given us great tools to use.

TACKLING FOOD WASTE IN THE COMMUNITY

What is a community fridge? It is a place for you to donate your perishables. It is easy to open up your kitchen cabinet and give items to your local food pantry. But what do you do with that gallon of milk you will not open or those extra vegetables in your garden? Now, you have a place to donate foods before they expire. Why would an environmental group get involved? We want to tackle food waste in McHenry County. 70% of food wasted in the home was edible at one time. This project will reduce food waste and help feed our neighbors. It's a win for the environment and the community. Our first locations will be at First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake, River East Library in McHenry and Nippersink Library in Richmond. We are hoping they will be up and operating by the end of September.

To fund this program we were fortunate to receive grants from the Lake in the Hills Rotary and CVS Health Foundation. These grants are annual and we are extraordinarily grateful. We would like to see more fridges throughout McHenry County. If you know a school, organization or church that would want to host, please let us know. We can be reached at wastereductionCL@gmail.com



The Green Bookstores

Bringing the Community a Jam-Packed Season

WRITTEN BY PAM JOHNSON & DIANE GREENMAN, BOOKSTORE MANAGERS

HAPPY FALL, Y'ALL!

The last few months of 2025 are definitely going to be busy ones for the Green bookstores. Fun fall events lead to the hectic but happy holiday season.



The Green Read is hoping to win another award in the Downtown Crystal Lake scarecrow decorating contest. So far we've won 4 out of 5 years! The event was moved from the end of September to the end of October this year. The Halloween Handout is another Downtown Crystal Lake event that The Green

Read will participate in again this year. It's fun to see so many kids dressed up in their costumes!

November is jam-packed with events and celebrations. To start off the month, the bookstores will have a booth at the Green Living Expo. Stop by and say hi when you're at the Expo! We'll have a variety of books, puzzles, and stationery items for sale that day. The Green Spot will also join the Legend of the Pickle scavenger hunt in Woodstock; further details will be shared via eNews and our bookstore newsletter.

SUPPORT LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Thanksgiving weekend is the peak sales period at both locations, with Black Friday and Small Business Saturday consistently ranking as our busiest days of the year. We encourage you to support the Environmental Defenders by shopping at the Green bookstores during the holiday season. Books, puzzles, and stationery items—all selected with care—are excellent choices for thoughtful gifts. Gift certificates are another popular option for a fellow book lover.

As we give thanks on the 27th of November, we will remember all of the volunteers who are instrumental

in keeping the stores open, inviting, and organized. We are thankful for everything they do, and they are all very much appreciated!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow our bookstores' Facebook pages, The Green Read and The Green Spot, and our new Instagram @thegreenbookstores to keep updated on what is happening at the stores.

For more information visit the Environmental Defenders' website mcdef.org/bookstores/. Our monthly newsletter is another great way to learn about our sales and events. Sign up to receive it at either stores or by emailing thegreenreadbookstore@gmail.com.

We hope you can all "fall" into our bookstores and "leaf" with a good book while supporting the Defenders this autumn!



Paddle the Kish

2025 Wrap Up & Updates

WRITTEN BY PAT LAWLOR

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The usual dedicated volunteers turned out this spring and summer to deal with the few fallen trees that happened since last paddling season. Our Paddle the Kish in Marengo Facebook of 1,700 interested people was taken down due to a personal Facebook oops on my part, so we needed to start over. 68 people have since followed the page, so please follow our Facebook page if you are interested in staying connected or volunteering.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

We published the annual map and list of access and exit points (see Fig. 1) in early 2025 both on Facebook and website, hoping this would help paddlers get in and out of the Kish, since most of our launches are primitive. The City of Marengo Public Works has agreed to mow the parking lot at Woodbine Launch monthly during the season, so that is a big boost. Thank you City of Marengo for your partnership! Volunteers will continue to weed whip the trail down to the launch. The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County honored the PTK group with the Volunteers of the Year award at their annual dinner. We are so grateful for that recognition. We also partnered with MCHS McHenry County Historical Society for two

group paddles this summer, including kayak rentals from Paddle On! Outfitters in Genoa. 15-20 people participated in each paddling group.

HONORING A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER

Our most active volunteer Ray Mroczkowski passed away in June. Besides working hard and frequently as a chainsaw volunteer, Ray spent many hours keeping the bridge access points cleared. The volunteers held a Celebration of Life in his honor at the Siems Park launch, which he helped build.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE

The biggest challenge in 2025 has been dealing with drought and little water in the Kish to paddle in our county. On a good paddle day most people just move their trip downstream to Boone or Winnebago County, but it is frustrating to see the Kish so low that paddling is not fun. I try to publish water conditions weekly on our Facebook, so please check that before heading out.

BIGGEST CHANGE

The biggest change for PTK is the updated *USGS.gov* website. The monitor is on the southeast corner of the Hwy 23 bridge. You can see the solar panel mounted onto the corner of the water treatment fence. Our recommendation for safe and fun paddling is that reading should be between 70 and 600 cfs (cubic feet per second to measure current). Lower than 70 and boats can get stuck on sandbars. Higher than 600 is not safe because, at curves, the current pushes boats across the stream into oncoming brush, and there are many curves on the Kish! Chainsaw volunteers try to remove brush which is harmless along the banks at most paddling currents, but can be deadly with swift currents over 600 cfs. To check if the river is between 60 and 700 cfs, the new online site that registers the current is Waterdata Kishwaukee Marengo. "Gauge Height Feet" comes up first, but scroll down to "Graph It" "Discharge Cubic Feet per second" to get the cfs.

Most of the summer has been at 20-60 cfs, jumping to 300 cfs for a few days after a storm. As you can see from

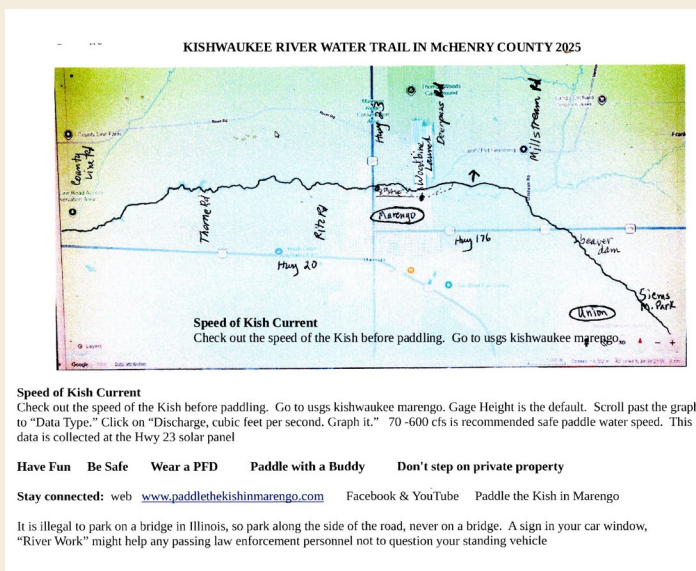


Figure 1: Map of Access/Exit Points

the photo, we had 3 big storms this year, with some minor ones. Because the Kish is a river, rain falls on ground all over the feeder streams, then flows to the Kish and west to the Rock, so the rainfall is gone. McHenry County has in a drought pattern for almost 10 years now, more or less, so this is the reality we live in. When it rains, get out there the next few days to enjoy our Kish!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers over the years who have helped make paddling on the Kish possible. This year we are especially thankful for Ray Mroczkowski, Gary Thrall, Gary Clark, Mike Church, Linda Zumpf, Sam Jaros Maria Becker, and Nick Broughton. Gary Thrall volunteered on land and water, helping to mow and clear the Woodbine parking lot of the jon boat and other unwanted items. We love your trailer, Gary!

Wrapping up another successful year on the Kish in McHenry County!

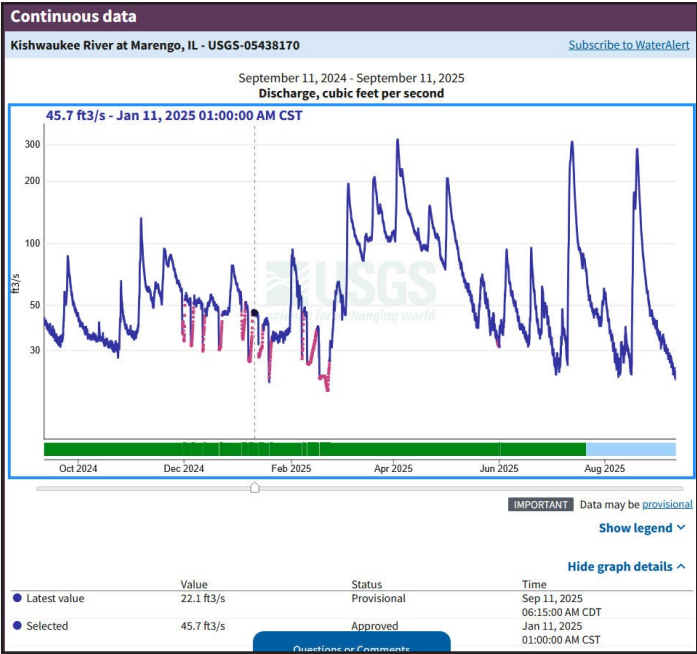


Figure 2: Discharge Cubic Feet per Second Data



Volunteers, Gary & Mike, chainsawing in the river in August

Expanding Harvard's Tree Canopy

Planting More Trees through Openlands' Tree Planting Grant

WRITTEN BY LINDA SIMKO, CCL'S TREE COMMITTEE CHAIR

OUR MISSION

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a grassroots advocacy group with volunteers across the nation that drives climate action in Congress. CCL's mission for Healthy Forests, one of its four policy areas, is to protect, expand and manage our forests while being climate-smart. Not every community has equal access to streets lined with trees. Both past and ongoing environmental policies have caused increased pollution and lower-than-average tree canopy in some neighborhoods. In advocating for increased urban forests, CCL's focus is on neighborhoods that are negatively impacted by a lack of tree equity.



The City of Harvard has been identified as a community where new trees will have a high impact, based on environmental, social and economic criteria. Many trees

in Harvard that were decimated in 2012 by the Emerald Ash Borer, a wood boring beetle, have not been replaced.

The Tree Committee of CCL's McHenry County Chapter worked with Harvard's Tree Board Chairwoman, Lisa Haderlein, and Harvard's Public Works Superintendent, Rob Lamz, to obtain an Openlands Tree Planting Grant. Considerable preparation went into obtaining the grant and preparing for the planting day. Door-to-door canvassing helped identify homeowners who wanted to plant trees in the bare parkways of their homes. English and Spanish flyers were distributed to residents with an application for a tree with their guarantee to water the tree for the first three years.

Openlands' collaborated with the City of Harvard staff and CCL's Tree Committee from the onset and provided trees, education, supplies and expertise on the day of planting. They conducted a site visit two weeks before the planting to ensure the trees would be planted in the right location.

On September 13th, enthusiastic volunteers from CCL, Harvard's Tree Board, and Harvard's Public Works Department planted 38 total trees of varied species for both homeowners and the Harvard Diggins Library. Openlands' staff were there to guide the project from start to finish.

BENEFITS OF PLANTING TREES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Increased Property Value Homes with trees can sell for up to 20% more than those without trees.

Energy Efficiency Trees can cool homes in the summer and warm homes in the winter

Environmental Benefits Trees reduce stormwater runoff, prevent soil erosion, & provide habitat for wildlife.

Personal and Community Well Being Trees can reduce stress, improve mood, & promote physical activity.

Reduction in Storm Water Run-Off Trees reduce the amount of storm water run-off which reduces erosion and pollution in our waterways.

CCL'S TREE COMMITTEE'S GOALS

Raise awareness & educate about climate change.

Advocate for climate change legislation to protect our trees and forests.

Ensure our trees and forests are maintained, especially in underserved communities, in the midst of climate change.

If you are interested in joining CCL of McHenry County and becoming involved with the Tree Committee, please contact Linda Simko at: ldsimko@gmail.com or call/text: 815-529-7542.



Green Living Expo

Connecting Community with Sustainability

WRITTEN BY KIM HANKINS, DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY AT MCC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

After a year-long hiatus, the Green Living Expo at McHenry County College is planning for a triumphant return on November 1, 2025 from 10am-3pm at McHenry County College. This event will bring together eco-conscious individuals and organizations to celebrate sustainability, highlighting the community's commitment to environmental stewardship. The event features a wide array of activities, including solar energy solutions, energy-efficient home improvement ideas, shopping for green gifts and enjoy some delicious sustainable food.

EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

Stop by the Griffin Museum of Science & Industry exhibit, our Expo partnership this year!

Visit the 2500-gallon fish tank! The IL DNR will bring native fish from the Chain O' Lakes for everyone to enjoy.

Bring your pumpkin and fall decor to be composted

Enjoy an interactive watershed exhibit with local watershed organization

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

The Green Living Expo, free and open to the public, provides a platform to learn about renewable energy, meet local and regional environmental leaders, and explore innovative ways to live more sustainably.

Another highlight of this year's Expo is the Repair Fair. A Repair Fair is a free opportunity for the community to have small items repaired. We will have repair stations for small appliances, lamps, bicycles, small engines and clothing mending. We invite the community to bring items to the Fair and then visit the Expo while those items are repaired.

Big news! Thanks to an amazing partnership with one of our sponsors, The Land Conservancy of McHenry, the 2025 Green Living Expo will be a carbon neutral event for the very first time!

Repair Fair 11AM-2PM

Connect with local experts who specialize in repairing and reusing everyday items. By extending the lifespans of our possessions, we can reduce waste and minimize environmental impact! Experts will be available onsite to help repair:

LAMPS AND LIGHT FIXTURES

SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES (TOASTERS, BLENDERS, ETC.)

CLOTHING (NO TAILORING)

BICYCLES

SMALL ENGINES (LAWNMOWERS, ETC.)

No electronics, computers, computer screens, or cell phones.

Projects must be able to be fixed in under an hour. Limit three items per person. Walk-ins only—first come, first served.



MCSEEP

McHenry County School Environmental Education Program

WRITTEN BY PAMELA DUNCAN KING

The McHenry County School Environmental Education Program (MCSEEP) currently is scheduling schools for the 25-26 school year. We are excited to announce that we will have expanded our Pre-K offerings to all the Head Start programs in the county. There are three Head Start programs in McHenry County: Harvard, Crystal Lake, and McHenry. These programs reach the most vulnerable learners here in the County. Head Start is currently facing significant funding uncertainty, so MCSEEP reached out to Head Start this summer. We will teach all their locations nine times during the school year. The cost to MCSEEP to provide 90 Pre-K classroom visits is approximately \$3,400. We will be reaching students that would not have access to quality environmental education programs until they actually start school. For the last three years, private donors covered the cost of the Harvard Head Start programs for two visits.

So I am personally making an appeal. The cost of our program is about \$5 per student. Our program is administered by paid, trained Environmental Educators. The out of pocket costs of the MCSEEP program not covered by grants is about \$35 per classroom session. This included the wages for the Environmental Educators and consumables used in our program. There are a total of 10 classrooms of Head Start occurring in our county this year serving almost 200 students that would not have this opportunity otherwise. So I am reaching every one that values educational opportunity for all, especially science

education for the most vulnerable of our neighbors. Any excess funds above this specific need will be used to defray our costs in other public schools that have difficulty meeting the suggested cost of the MCSEEP program.



Scan to Donate

This is my last official act as the Director of the MCSEEP. I have thoroughly enjoyed building the program back after the pandemic. I will remain available to the program in two roles, advisor to the new directors and helping prepare

for the 40th anniversary of the MCSEEP program that will occur in the 2027-2028 school year.

I am pleased that I have two vibrant young people to take the helm. The new directors are Hannah Pfaff, long time environmental educator with our program, and Abby Winters, our newest addition to the team of environmental educators. Hannah will be the chief contact for the program and Abby will be doing work behind the scenes to ensure things run smoothly. I hope you have a chance to meet Hannah and Abby soon! I am excited to pass on this role to the next generation of leaders.



CUB & Community Solar

Citizen's Utility Board

WRITTEN BY MARINA MINIC, SOLAR EDUCATION MANAGER AT CUB

CONSIDER COMMUNITY SOLAR

Amid an electricity price spike, Citizen's Utility Board (CUB) is encouraging consumers to take advantage of money saving programs, especially community solar. Community solar allows Illinois consumers to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without installing home solar panels. By subscribing to large, offsite community solar projects, customers are able to save money on their electric bills with the output of their solar subscription. With several new community solar farms being built in McHenry County, CUB wants to let consumers know about this option.

HOW IT WORKS

The owner of the community solar project (also called a community solar "farm" or "garden") pays the upfront costs to build, maintain and connect the garden to the utility's power grid. When you sign up for community solar, you are subscribing to a portion of the project's monthly output. Your community solar provider will analyze your household's energy demand to determine your subscription size. Each month, you'll pay your community solar provider for your subscription size. The provider then reports the amount of electricity generated by your subscription to the utility, and the utility company credits your electric bill equal to that output.

HOW IT SAVES MONEY

Every community solar company in Illinois is currently offering a discount on the supply rate. The discount typically ranges from 10 to 20% compared to ComEd's supply rate price – but the savings can be even higher (around 30 to 50%) with certain farms that are reserved for income-eligible consumers. With these discount programs, community solar customers pay less for their solar energy than they would have paid for their regular utility bill.

SIGN UP

There are several community solar companies to choose from. Each company functions a little differently. Here we have included a chart that lays out each

company's offer. CUB regularly updates this chart, at [SolarInTheCommunity.com](https://www.solarinthecommunity.com). We recommend calling two to three companies to check if they have a waitlist. From there, you can choose the company that's the best option for your home. Always read your contract thoroughly before signing.

Once you subscribe with a community solar company, it typically takes a few billing cycles before you start seeing credits show up on your ComEd bill. As you start receiving those utility bill credits, you will also get a bill from your community solar company for the subscription.

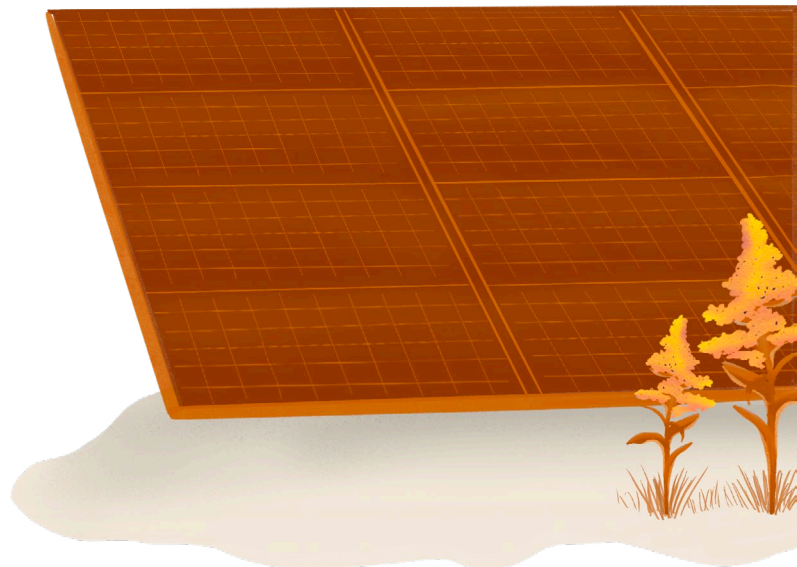
MORE INFORMATION

If you have additional questions about an offer, contact that company directly.

Illinois Shines, the state administrator of the Community Solar program, can be reached at 1-877-783-1820 or admin@illinoisshines.com.

The administrator of the Illinois Solar for All program, for income-eligible customers, can be reached at 1-888-970-4732 or info@illinoisSFA.com.

If after contacting the above sources, you have more questions, you can call CUB at 1-800-669-5556.



Signage for Restoration & Protection

Kishwaukee Headwaters Prairie on Dean Street

WRITTEN BY NANCY SCHIETZELT, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACTION TEAM

EDUCATING THROUGH SIGNAGE

Have you ever taken a walk on the property that the Defenders own on Dean Street on the south side of Woodstock? If you're interested in doing so, you can park in the parking lot of the MCCD site called Kishwaukee Headwaters Conservation Area located at 1606 Dean Street. Then walk north on the trail, cross the small bridge, and soon you'll arrive at the mowed oval path that will lead you around the Defenders' 8 acres that is part of the headwaters of the Kishwaukee River. At the NW corner of the oval, you'll come to the shade of a giant hickory tree. Near there pause a bit to read the sign that volunteers of our Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team

recently erected. This sign, paid for with a grant from Full Circle Foundation, will provide you with information about the importance of our restoration work at the site to promote pollinators and to protect the Kishwaukee River watershed. You can then proceed around the oval, cross the bridge again and head back to your car. As you enjoy the beauty of the site that is a portion of the larger area owned not only by MCCD but also by the Soil and Water Conservation District on the north side of our property, please consider helping our team with future restoration work there. Watch our weekly eNews for notices of our workdays on the site and join our efforts while enjoying time in nature!



Defenders Helping Pollinators

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

WRITTEN BY CINDY SKRUKRUD, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACTION TEAM CHAIR

POLLINATOR PROTECTORS

Pollinators across North America are in decline. But there are easy things you can do to help the birds, bees, butterflies and other insects that we rely on to pollinate 75% of crops and many of our beautiful native plants.

This year Defenders conducted many stewardship and educational activities to support pollinators. Early in the year, the Water & Natural Resources Protection Action Team (WNRP) reached out to towns, townships and park districts in our county encouraging them to sign the 2025 Mayors' Monarch Pledge. We hosted a celebration reception for the 19 pledgers in June. Together with many other local conservation organizations we also hosted a bevy of programs during Pollinator Week including 11 film showings about the Homegrown National Park movement at area libraries. These programs attracted 200 people. HNP is an effort encouraging people to plant native and improve biodiversity and habitat on their own properties.

This summer, the Defenders' interns assisted the WNRP Team in stewarding the two roadside prairies, the Defenders property at the Kishwaukee River headwaters on Dean Street in Woodstock, and the pollinator garden at the county fairgrounds in Woodstock. Much of this work is to remove invasive species so the native plants that pollinators feed on thrive. Our interns finished up their summer by staffing the Environmental Defenders' table at the August Monarch Family Fun Fair which 525 people of all ages attended.

RESOURCES

Our Action Team

mcdef.org/action-teams/water-and-natural-resource-protection/
Contact the WNRP team if you'd like to help to encourage your town to sign the 2026 Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

McHenry County Resources To Support Pollinators Guide

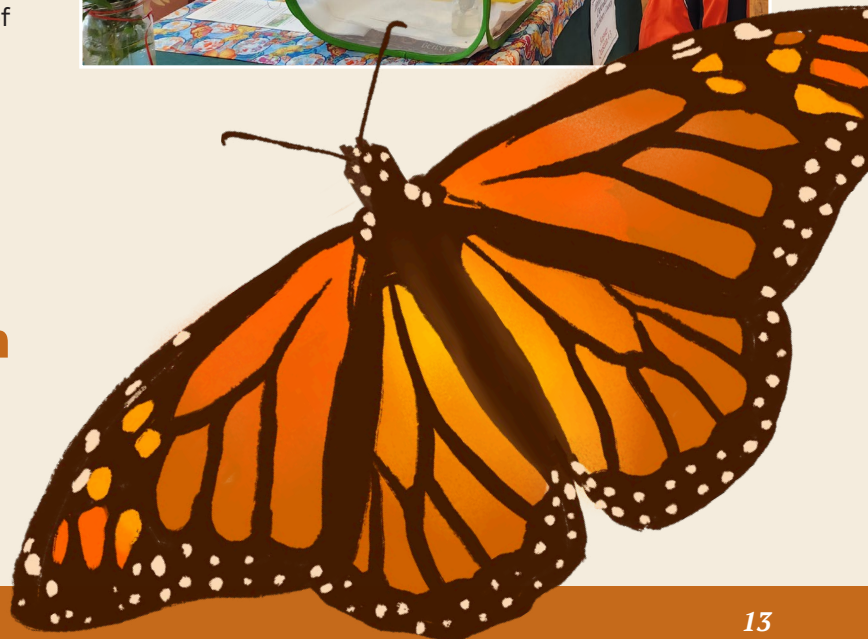
tinyurl.com/38y3ph7r
Check out the Homegrown National Park Map & more.

Illinois Monarch Project

illinoismonarchproject.org/
The annual pledge period is open October 1 to December 31. This is how Illinois tracks progress toward its goal.



The Illinois Monarch Project has established a goal of 150M additional milkweed stems between 2014 and 2038 across landscapes in Illinois.



Natural Areas Management for HOAs

Defenders' Best Management Practices Talks & Tours

WRITTEN BY NANCY SCHIETZELT, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACTION TEAM

STEWARDS THROUGH HOAS

The Water and Natural Resources Protection Action Team and McHenry County's Department of Planning and Development, held another successful Talk & Tour at McAndrews Glen in August. The "Natural Areas Management for Homeowner Associations (HOAs)" tour was led by Dennis Dreher, resident and steward of the Land Conservancy's Boloria Meadows. HOA members and managers learned about the role of HOAs in funding and overseeing natural area management which helps with stormwater management, water quality, and cost savings.

On October 24th, the last Talk and Tour for 2025 will be held at the County Administration Building. The topic will be Keeping Children Safe from Toxic Pavement Sealants.

[Sign up today!](#)



Big Fall Book Sale

Our Annual Book Sale Fundraiser

WRITTEN BY NANCY SCHIETZELT, FUNDRAISING ACTION TEAM

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Along with the Defenders' Fundraising Action Team, it takes lots and lots of volunteers to prepare for our annual Big Fall Book Sale held in the Algonquin Township Road District Garage. Our loading crew traveled to the Lake Forest Library to load up all the remaining books from their book sale (*photo 1*). The volunteers unloaded those 684 boxes of books in one hour (*photo 2*)! Even more volunteers worked to organize and display all of the books for the sale. The Fundraising Team thanks all of these wonderful volunteers for their efforts that results in one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. This annual fundraiser gives all of these books another chance to be enjoyed before being recycled!



Photo 1: Volunteers picking up the books from the library



Thank You

Ted Thornton, a long-time member of The Defenders has graciously donated a generous gift of \$50,000 in memory of his beloved wife, Judy Thornton. Judy passed away on February 29, 2020 and was a dedicated Defender and volunteer for many years. Judy often volunteered throughout the County including Earth Day, McHenry County Fair, recycling drives, book sales and many other events to educate the public and promote Defenders' membership. We are so grateful to receive this gift in her name. Thank you, Ted.



Photo 2: Volunteers with unloaded 684 boxes of books.



Opening day of the book sale.



Our community browsing through hundreds of books.

Our Team

DEFENDERS' STAFF

ERIN KENNEDY

Executive Director

GRACE TURCICH

Manager of Communication & Membership

PAM JOHNSON

Manager at The Green Read and The Green Spot

DIANE GREENMAN

Assistant Manager at The Green Read and The Green Spot

DEFENDERS' OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

BEV DOW President

KIM COMPTON First Vice President

KIM HANKINS Second Vice President

CARL EDSTROM Treasurer

ZAK DOLEZAL Secretary

RICO ROTTA

KEN SANTOWSKI

ASHLEY LANGE

ELLY SALAZAR

KATHY SLOVER

ABOUT EARTHCONNECT NEWSLETTER

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114 S. Jefferson Street, Woodstock IL 60098
815-338-0393 | www.mcdef.org

Calendar

Fall/Winter Events of 2025

Environmental Defenders
of McHenry County
114 S Jefferson St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

OCT

SEPT 27 - OCT 4 | Big Fall Book Sale

10am-4pm at Algonquin Township Road District (closed Sundays)

SUN 5 | Annual Bike Ride

1pm at Food Shed

FRI 24 | BMP Talk & Tour: Keeping Children Safe from Toxic Pavement Sealants

1-3pm at McHenry County Administration Building

SAT 18 | McHenry County Recycling Drive

9am - 12pm McHenry County Fairgrounds in Woodstock

SAT 18 | Roadside Clean-Up

9am - 12pm Cary Algonquin Road

SUN 26 | Craft & Sip Fundraiser

2-4pm Kishwaukee Brewing Company

NOV

SAT 1 | Green Living Expo featuring Repair Fair

10am - 3pm at McHenry County College

NOV 28 - 30 | Pioneer Christmas Tree Farm

9am - 4pm Pioneer Tree Farm at 4614 Pioneer Road

NOV 29 | Small Business Saturday at The Green Read & The Green Spot

Come visit and support a local organization

DEC

DEC 6 - 7 | Pioneer Christmas Tree Farm

9am - 4pm Pioneer Tree Farm at 4614 Pioneer Road

RECURRING EVENTS

GREEN DRINKS First Wednesday of Every Month

5PM - 7PM | Duke's Alehouse & Kitchen

In-Person and on Zoom. Presentation begins at 5:45

STERNE'S FEN RESTORATION WORK DAY

Fourth Sunday of Every Month

9am - 11am | 5617 Hillside Dr, Crystal Lake

ACTION TEAM MEETINGS

Monthly | Visit mcdef.org for more information



Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

CLOSED SUNDAY

815-527-7122

110 S. Johnson Street, Woodstock IL



Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

CLOSED SUNDAY

779-220-4945

61 N. Williams St, Crystal Lake, IL



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