

## Summary of Annual Project Maintenance Activities including Biodiversity Plan

**General Habitat Maintenance:** Students should compile descriptions of the general Schoolyard Habitats maintenance needs, including which tasks are necessary to complete the work and tools/equipment needed. Students will write down a record of work completed and the date.

**Seasonal Habitat Maintenance:** maintenance tips for different seasons:

Summer - water plants as needed, monitor weed growth

Fall - continue to water plants as needed, monitor weed growth, add mulch

Winter - Confirm mulch layer in place to protect perennial plants

Spring - Weed and clear area. Monitor regrowth of perennials.

**Wildlife Sightings:** Students will set aside time for first-hand observations. Create a shared document that all habitat visitors can use to record what kinds of wildlife they saw at the site. Students may also want to poll other students in the school for a list of all wildlife seen at the site. A small amount of information, such as hints on where to look for the animal will help visitors trying to locate wildlife.

	<b>WATER (weekly)</b>	<b>WEEDING (Monthly)</b>	<b>MULCHING (as needed)</b>	<b>FERTILIZIN G (seasonal)</b>	<b>Record BIODIVERSITY GROWTH (species found &amp; their height)</b>
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					

June					
July					
August					
September					
November					
October					
November					
December					

**What action will take place to address the issue?** Growth of a pollinator garden at GLC In our 5th grade classes, both Language Arts and Math teachers are incorporating the big ideas regarding biodiversity and the plight of the Monarch Butterfly into their lessons and curriculum. Reading lessons will study the importance of monarch waystations, their incredible annual migration and the environmental factors that put them at risk. Math teachers will incorporate standards based learning around the real world data regarding the populations and migrations of this iconic insect. Students will be responsible for the annual maintenance and upkeep of the garden. The kids will have the opportunity to observe the plants, tend to their growth and survival and observe firsthand their role in the local ecosystem. It is the intention of this project to foster a curiosity and understanding of the natural world and how we here in Long Branch can support the biodiversity of the world around us.

**Who will do it?** 174 Fifth grade Students and the 9 teachers in the grade level with the help of community members for resources

**When will it be done?** Spring of 2022

**How will we monitor progress?** Conduct yearly audits to look for increased wildlife particularly monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Study area in summer months with camp students as well as photograph to show pollinators in the gardens. Possibly raise money for the purchase of a wildlife camera for the area with the gardens to track wildlife.

**How will we know if we succeeded?** Success will be achieved if the perennial pollinator plants thrive and return yearly and wildlife like pollinators increase in the area.

**What will it cost?** The costs associated with funding this project have been donated by community members and supplemented with our PTO fundraising funds. So far costs for mulch, coffee grounds, plants, seeds and fencing has been donated. PTO funds will cover additional costs as the project continues.