

# SUBMISSIONS | SMALL OPEN SPACES

## Project Title

MIGRATION GARDEN:  
An Urban Monarch Butterfly Habitat

## Address/Site

Ontario Science Centre  
Teluscape Park  
770 Don Mills Road

## Project Team

Karen Abel, Artist

## Client

Ontario Science Centre



2009

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Migration Garden is an innovative ecological design merging art and science into a living installation of butterfly habitat that provides a unique environmental learning space for the public. Planted in the fall of 2008, the garden will bloom this summer to engage and educate the public about butterfly conservation while providing critical habitat for the migratory Monarch butterfly as well as other native butterflies that are an important part of Toronto's natural heritage and urban biodiversity .

The project was designed to fully utilize the ecological potential of a small urban park site flanked by pedestrian walkways. Composed of a series of hand made cast-stone butterfly egg sculptures and a vibrant display of native plants, the design merges ecological components of butterfly habitat with architectural structure suitable for the small urban space. Each feature of the garden is both an aesthetic design element and a functioning component of butterfly habitat.

The sculpture composition forms a north to south-moving migration pattern in the garden symbolizing the monumental journey south completed by millions of Monarchs each fall.

Reflecting the natural origins of the region, the garden helps support the biodiversity of the Don River Valley within the urban landscape. It is a unique self-sustaining urban habitat that celebrates the juxtaposition between the natural setting of the valley and the densely populated surrounding urban community. The project aims to convey the complexity of biodiversity and wildlife habitat while simultaneously exemplifying the simplicity and value of creating such living spaces in our urban environments.

2009