

# Dove's Nest Pollinator Site



Delaware Department  
of Transportation



A field of yellow Black-eyed Susans flowers with a white text box in the center.

# Presentation Overview



## DNREC Compensatory Mitigation Report

**US 301 Mainline: MD/DE Line to SR1,  
South of the C&D Canal  
New Castle County, DE**

Prepared For:  
Delaware Department of Transportation



Prepared By:  
RK&K  
700 East Pratt Street, Suite 500  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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- The construction of 301 will result in environmental impacts
- Mitigation sites are designed to offset impacts to natural resources, like wetlands and forests
- DeIDOT has a legal obligation to perform mitigation
- Because the 301 project is a new alignment, DeIDOT has a lot of mitigation commitments

# Middletown, DE



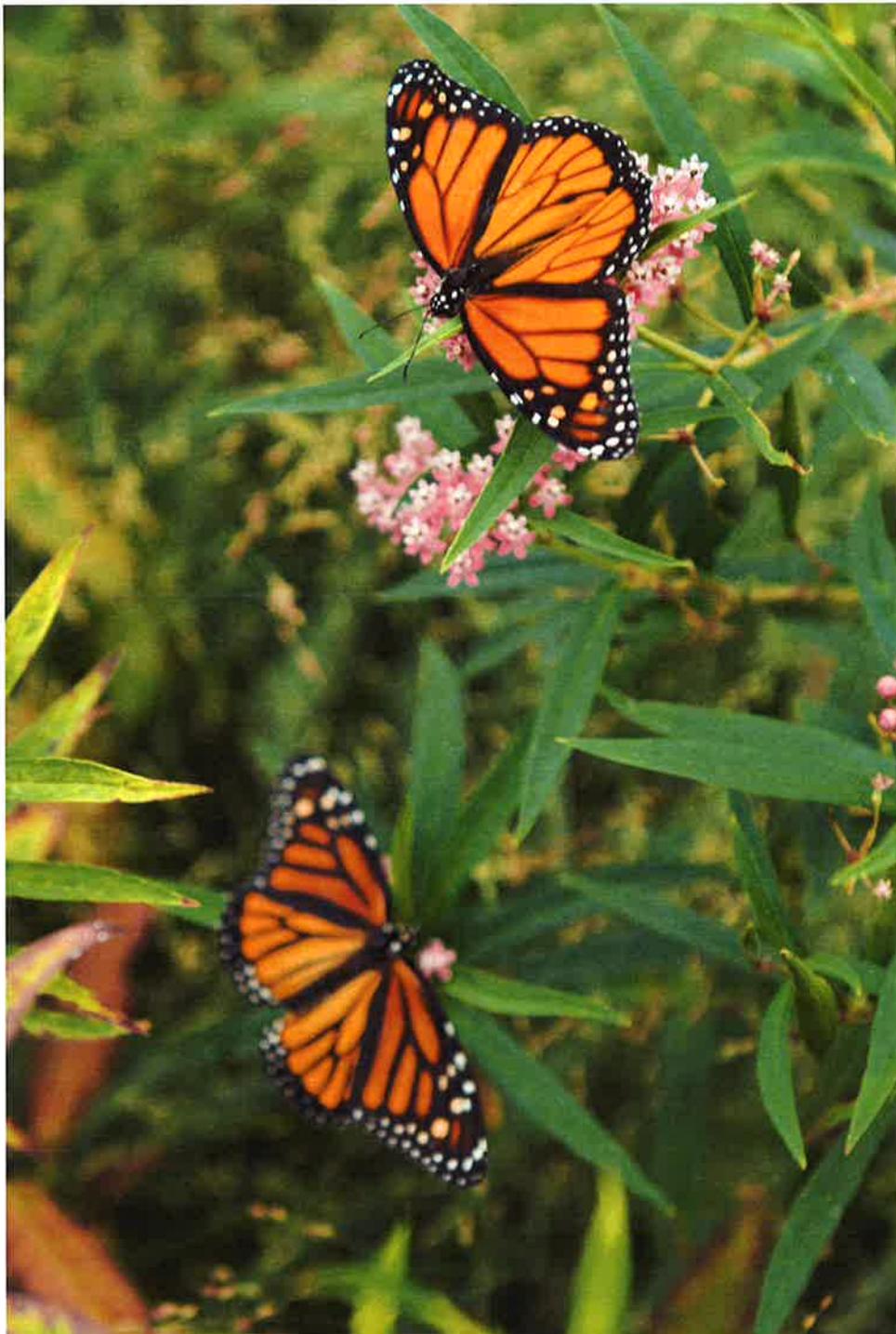
0.5  
Miles

1937



2007





## Dove's Nest: Pollinator Meadow

- Many pollinator species (e.g., monarch butterflies) have seen a precipitous decline due to among other things habitat loss
- DNREC asked DeIDOT to consider whether it would be possible to create pollinator habitat
- DeIDOT met with meadow experts: Eric Ludwig (DNREC) and Jim White (Delaware Nature Society)

# Why pollinators? Why meadows?



- Birds, bees, butterflies, etc. are essential for many plants (and specifically crops) to grow optimally
- Meadows are some of the most valuable habitat in the state
- Meadow habitat can also benefit some of the state's species of greatest conservation concern
- Benefit to residents: increased birding opportunities



# Dove's Nest Pollinator Site

- 43-acre field - planted in native wildflowers that bloom across the growing season
- Partnership between DelDOT, DNREC, and the Delaware Forest Service
- Eric Ludwig (DNREC) will install the site
- Todd Gsell (Delaware Forest Service) will maintain the site through controlled burns

# Dove's Nest – Site Design



- Late summer/fall 2018 – remove hedgerow, fill ditch, construct small retaining berm, plant fencerow
- Early spring 2019 – DNREC will disc the field and plant native wildflowers
- A 30-foot perimeter of clover will be planted to function as a firebreak and early blooming flower source



# Controlled Burns



- Necessary for wildflowers in the long-term
- Every 3-5 years – during February or March
- Advance notice to residents
- Designed to ensure safety:
  - Firebreaks
  - Have special equipment to control fire

# Controlled Burns



- Delaware Forest Service are controlled burn experts
  - They do this routinely throughout the state
  - Receive extensive training

# Controlled Burns



- Burns are performed in a way that minimizes impact on wildlife
  - Before nesting season
  - Before growing season
  - Exit routes maintained (i.e., not “ringed”)

# Controlled Burns



- The burns will only be performed if conditions are ideal!
  - Example: wind direction/speed, moisture, vegetation
- If conditions are not ideal, burns will not occur.



# Flower Species



# Surveys



- Performed to measure the success of the project
- Bird surveys
  - 3 weeks each winter (December – February)
  - 3 weeks each spring (May – July)
- Butterflies/bees
  - DNREC's Jason Davis

# Opportunities

**Jason Davis, DNREC**  
**Private Lands Coordinator**  
**(302)735-3606**  
**Jason.Davis@state.de.us**



- DNREC can teach residents how to plant for pollinators
- Pollinator habitat in Spring Mill will magnify the impact of Dove's Nest
- Residents should see more birds, butterflies and other pollinators in their yards

Questions?