

STORMWATER UPDATE

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EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

KSU CIT Program

<http://citksu.com>

June 7-8, 2017

Tentative Dates:

October 11-12, 2017

March 19-20, 2018

March 21-22, 2018

April 30 – May 1, 2018

May 1-2, 2018

June 6-7, 2018

Kansas Contractors Association

<http://www.kansascontractors.org/>

No classes scheduled

WPCMs are required to have completed both the EIT and the EMT courses within the 12 months prior to beginning work on a project or being designated as WPCM for a project.

All completed inspection reports must be submitted to the responsible Area Engineer and the contractor's WPCM within 24 hours of each inspection. The Area Engineer must sign within 3 calendar days and submit to KDOT.stormwaterinspection@ks.gov. Failure to complete and submit inspection reports on time **will** result in penalties.

Promoting Pollinators

By Melissa Davidson
KDOT Environmental Services

About three-quarters of the world's flowering plants and many of the world's food crops depend upon pollinators such as bees, butterflies and birds. No pollination would mean no apples, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate, almonds, melons, peaches, pumpkins, or many other important foods we love to eat. We would also lose many plants that are used for medicine to make us feel better. Due in part to a loss of natural habitat, bee and monarch butterfly populations are in decline across the country. This means that now, more than ever, it is imperative to recognize the importance of native grasses and wildflowers on our roadsides and protect that natural habitat.

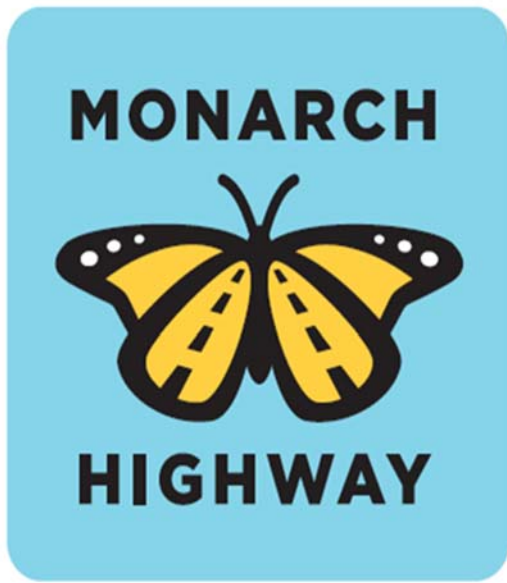
Over the years, KDOT has actively pursued partnerships with other State, Federal and local agencies who share an interest in preserving and protecting our natural roadsides. In 2004 KDOT joined a partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWP&T), Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the Audubon Society of Kansas. The goal of this partnership was to help protect and preserve the native plant species that are found in the State. New regional seed mixes and erosion control practices were developed to more closely represent and protect native vegetation across the state.

In 2008, KDOT, partners from conservation groups, and the KDWP&T formed an Aesthetics Task Force better manage the more than 150,000 acres of state-owned highway right-of-way. What emerged was a roadside management policy that saves money and fuel, but also enhances roadside beauty. Some important changes included revising KDOT's mowing policy to limit the frequency and timing of mowing to allow native plants to set seed, spot spraying rather than broad application of herbicides and adding a more diverse selection of native grasses and wildflowers to our mixes.

In 2016, KDOT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota DOT's establishing the I-35 corridor as the "Monarch Highway." The states agreed to collaborate with public education and to share practices to promote and improve pollinator habitat along the central flyway of the monarch butterfly migration path.

In early 2017, KDOT again revised their wildflower mixes to include a greater number and variety of native wildflowers. Flower species were added that will enhance roadside beauty and provide beneficial nectar sources for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, beetles, moths and even hummingbirds. Providing wildflower-rich habitat is the most significant action we can take to support pollinators. Native plants, which are adapted to local soils and climates, are usually the best sources of nectar and pollen for native pollinators.

KDOT is currently involved in a 15-acre mass wildflower and milkweed planting project along I-35 at the Homewood Rest Area. This project is being done in cooperation with the Monarch Highway Project, whose members consist of other State DOT's, local agencies, private entities, and organizations interested in protecting and preserving the ever-declining population of monarch butterflies. KDOT will continue to select other areas throughout the State to do the same type of project.



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NATIVE WILDFLOWER MIX 1

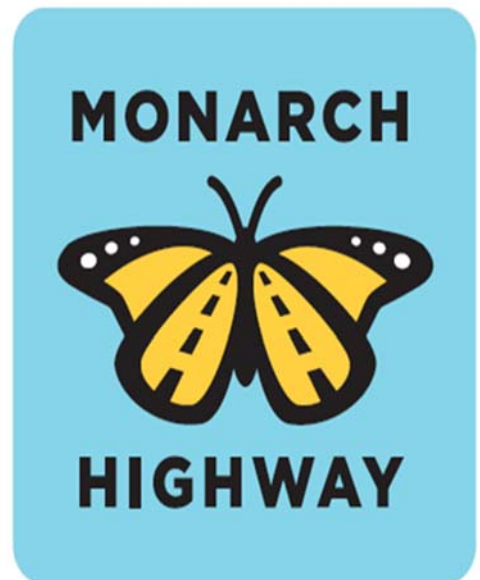
KDHE General Permit

KDHE has issued a draft General Permit for public comment. This draft permit includes a number of proposed changes. Notable changes for KDOT projects include revisions to the inspection frequency requirements and new language addressing stabilization of stockpiles. The 30 day public comment period ends on June 17. KDHE will review all comments, potentially revise the draft and then issue the final permit. Suggestions for official KDOT comments should be submitted to Jason Van Nice no later than June 6, 2017. Contractors, consultants and LPAs are strongly encouraged to review and submit comments to KDHE. The draft permit and fact sheet may be found at www.kdheks.gov/stormwater.

Upon issuance of the final permit KDOT will evaluate active projects and decide whether to maintain coverage under the 2012 permit or transition to the new permit. Special provisions to address changes will be issued once the permit is finalized by KDHE.



NATIVE WILDFLOWER MIX 2



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EIT / EMT Classes

A tentative schedule has been set for EIT and EMT classes through the KDOT CIT program. Classes are currently planned for October 9-10 and October 11-12, 2017 and March 19-20, March 21-22, April 30-May 1, May 2-3, June 4-5 and June 6-7, 2018. Registration is online and will open in September, 2017. Visit <http://citksu.com> for details.

The Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) also sponsors classes. No classes are currently scheduled but may be added if demand is sufficient. Contact the KCA for details.

Everyone should review their recertification dates and enroll in the appropriate classes to ensure that certifications do not lapse. Classes may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment so please register early.



Annual Report Published

KDOT's 2016 Annual Report on Stormwater Compliance was published on March 30, 2017. The report details actions taken during the calendar year to improve statewide compliance with the KDHE general permit and the Consent Decree. The report was submitted to the EPA as required by the Consent Decree and is currently available on KDOT's Stormwater website (<http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>).



Stormwater Update Online

This issue and all past issues of this quarterly bulletin are available online at KDOT's Stormwater website: <http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>

Contact Jason Van Nice (jason.vannice@ks.gov) for questions, comments or suggestions for future content.