

Wildlife | Biodiversity

Situated in a Blackland Prairie Habitat, the Monarch Waystation benefits from a no-mow zone initiative sponsored by Facilities Management at UT Dallas to promote the growth of native grasses, wildflowers, and other plant life. With this initiative, the waystation is more habitat friendly for a diverse insect and wildlife eco-system. While at the waystation, you may have the opportunity to spot a Red Tail or Cooper's Hawk hunting for its prey. The presence of these insects and animals, especially top predators like falcons, are all good indications of having a healthy eco-system with an established food chain all the way down to the Aphids and Milkweed Beetles that feast on the Milkweed Plants and Seeds.



Red Tail Hawk



Cooper's Hawk



Aphids on Milkweed



Milkweed Beetle

With such a diverse range of wildlife and insect populations, this is truly a nature area where life thrives. An additional benefit of the Monarch Waystation, is that with such diverse plant-life, this is a haven for pollinators such as honey bees. Honey bees are in decline world-wide. UT Dallas has stepped up to support the Honey Bee by installing bee hives to create an apiary located at the largest Monarch Waystation site.

Other Special Pollinators:



Solitary Mason Bee



Green Metallic Fly



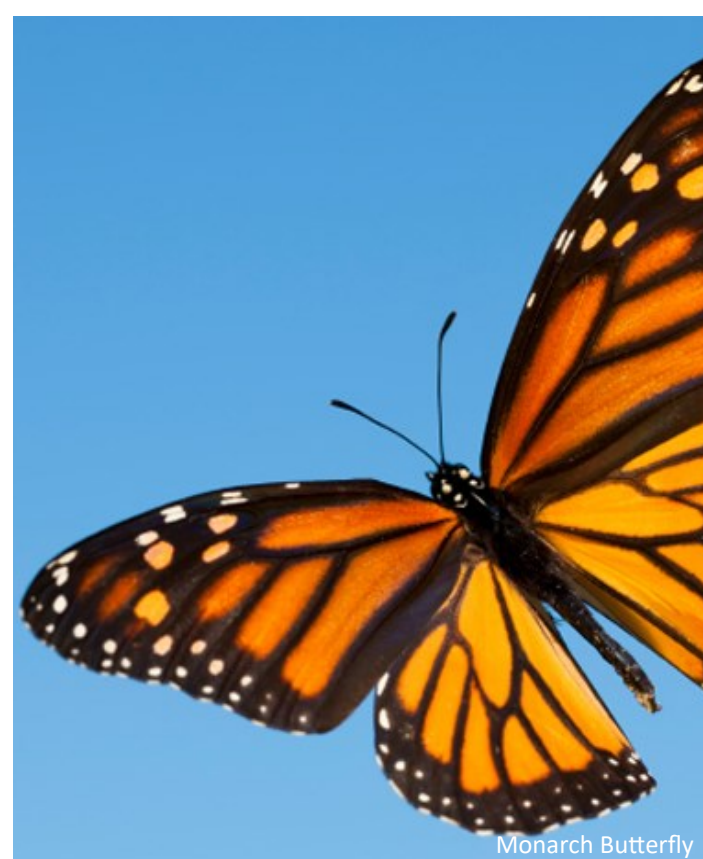
Painted Lady Butterfly



Eastern Swallow Tail



Monarch Life Cycle



Monarch Butterfly



Monarch Waystation

Self-Guided Tour

UT Dallas currently has 4 certified Monarch Waystations on-campus. A Monarch Waystation is a site that is rich with pollinator friendly plants and wildflowers. More specifically, the site exists to support the Monarch Butterfly during its migration from Canada to Mexico during different seasons throughout the year. At UT Dallas, we are within their migration path. The largest waystation site on-campus is located along Armstrong Drive and houses the campus disc golf course. Welcome!

Flora



The concentric ring design of the monarch waystation was designed to best accommodate the physiology and early lifecycle of Monarch butterflies. First, at location A, there is a large strip of milkweed, the host plant for Monarchs. Grouping the milkweed together in large patches makes it easier for the Monarchs to identify it using their UV vision. After a Monarch has emerged from its chrysalis, it will pump fluid into its wings to enable flight, and then it will need an immediate source of food. The outer rings of wildflowers provide this immediate source of food in the form of pollen and nectar. This waystation provides both a home and a plentiful source of food for these travelers and many other pollinators, including the bees from the small apiary located in this field.

