

Thanks to the generous support of the PSC Foundation and the fundraising efforts of the PSC Sustainability Club, PSC built a butterfly garden! The garden is located near the Courtyard between the Main building and Conference Center and will run along the library windows.

On June 5, 9 and 10, volunteers worked with Alessandra Kummelehne, sustainability coordinator, and Margaret Burns-Westmeyer, University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Program Coordinator, to build PSC's butterfly garden.

Together, volunteers prepared the garden site, built a two-foot high berm and planted a variety of native plants specifically selected for our site. Some of the plants planted include common milkweed, spicebush, cardinal flowers, false sunflowers, Virginia bluebells, and sweet joe-pye weed.

The pheromones released from this combination of native plants are likely to attract the following types of butterflies: monarch, swallowtail, checkered white, atlantis fritillary, European skipper, early hairstreak, spring azure, and a variety of other butterflies!

The garden can be utilized by classes in multiple disciplines including but not limited to science, math, arts, and communication. Butterfly gardens can:

- Educate students on ecology, native plants and insect life cycles.
- Inspire creativity in students, especially related to music, art and writing.
- Provide a relaxing environment for studying.
- Promote environmental awareness.
- Provide many environmental benefits.

View photos of the entire process in our Butterfly Garden photo album on Facebook [facebook.com/PSCsustainabilityclub](https://www.facebook.com/PSCsustainabilityclub)



Butterflies are self propelled flowers.

- R. H. Heinlein



The sustainability center seeks to promote sustainability around campus, while preserving and restoring the environmental integrity of the natural landscape and utilizing strategies to engage students, faculty, staff and the general community. In our most recent effort, PSC built a butterfly garden on campus this year. The purpose of this project is to provide a habitat for migrating butterflies while educating students about habitat loss and the benefits of native plants.

Beyond a beautiful landscape, butterfly gardens provide habitat for all stages of the butterfly life cycle. Thus, butterflies provide great educational value for students of all ages.



**Prairie State College
Foundation**



Native Illinois Perennials

Bee Balm

Monarda didyma

Plant in full sun to part shade.

Attracts checkered white, fritillaries, melissa blues, and swallowtail butterflies.



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Plant in full sun to part shade.

Attracts checkered white butterflies.



Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca

Plant in full sun.

Attracts a variety of butterflies, but most importantly milkweed is the sole food source for Monarch larvae.



Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Eupatorium purpureum

Plant in shade.

Attracts tiger swallowtail, eastern black swallowtail, monarch, and buckeye butterflies.



Virginia Bluebells

Mertensia virginica

Plant in light shade to partial sun.

Attracts skipper butterflies.



Yellow Jump Up Viola

Viola pedatifida

Plant in full sun to part shade.

Attracts diana butterflies.



False Sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

Plant in full to partial sun.

Attracts American lady, giant swallowtail, painted lady, silvery checkerspot, spicebush swallowtail, wild indigo duskywing, sachem, and bordered patch butterflies.



Native Plants

As the name suggests, native plants are already adapted to our climate and soil type - this means they are easier to grow and care for than exotic species. Native plants attract native species, many of which are beneficial to your garden. Native plants are very attractive and preserve our natural heritage.

Annual/Perennial

Coleus Kong

Solenostemon scutellarioides

Plant in sun/shade.

Attracts a variety of butterflies.



Annuals

Impatiens

Impatiens walleriana

Plant in shade.

Attracts gulf fritillary and European cabbage white butterflies.



Petunia

Ruellia humilis

Plant in full to partial sun.

Attracts pipevine swallowtail and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies.



Zinnia

Zinnia elegans

Plant in full sun.

Attracts sulphurs, hairstreaks, skippers, red admirals, painted ladies, sleepy orange, orange sulphur, and western tiger swallowtail, European cabbage white, and black swallowtail butterflies.



Perennials

Dwarf Butterfly Bush

Buddleia davidii

Plant in full to partial sun.

Attracts a variety of butterflies, including the tiger swallowtail.



False spirea

Astilbe Japonica

Plant in part sun.

Attracts a variety of butterflies.



Tree

Jane Magnolia

Magnolia X 'jane'

Plant in full sun.

Attracts a variety of butterflies, including the tiger swallowtail.

