

but • ter • fly

a kind of insect that has a long thin body and brightly colored wings and that flies mostly during the day



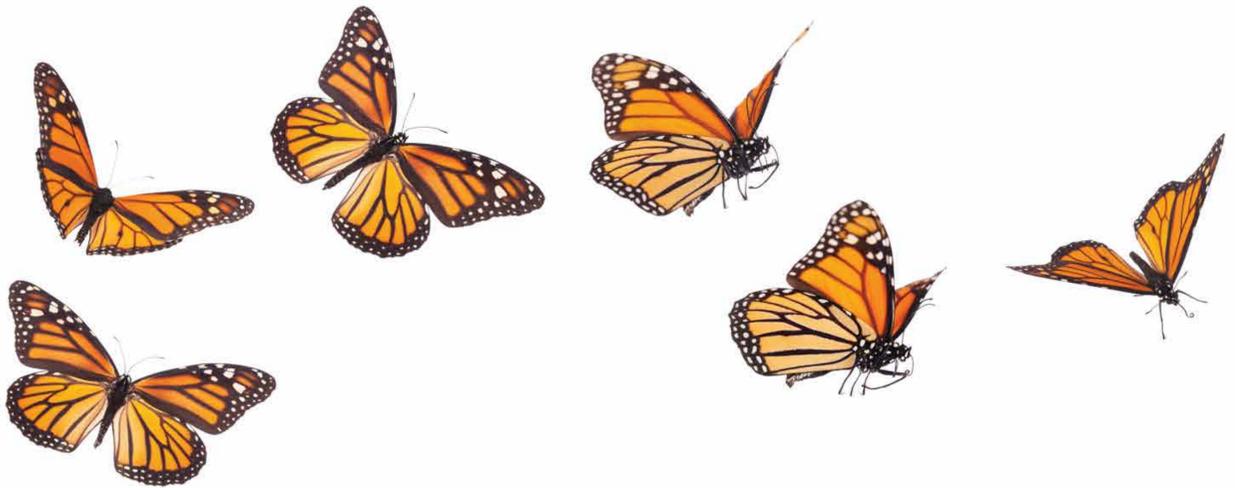
Butterflies are an indicator species.

- Tell us about the health of our environment. Subtle changes in plants will be reflected by a change in butterfly diversity and abundance.
- Suffer the effects of environmental degradation long before the situation is dire enough to affect humans.



What you can do to help the monarch?

- Learn how to identify milkweeds.
- Don't mow areas where milkweed is growing.
- Collect seeds and plant them.



**The Monarch
Butterfly –
The State
Insect
of Illinois**

What you need to know about the monarch butterfly

- Within North America, there has been an 88 percent decline in the monarch population in the past 15 years.
- Monarchs have a predictable, annual migration. They travel approximately 2,500 miles each fall to Mexico.
- In 2014, the Mexico site consisted of 1.66 acres of high altitude forest compared to 52 acres in the mid-1970s.
- In the past 15 years, milkweed habitat has declined by 64 percent. Monarch larvae can only eat milkweed plants. Therefore, without milkweeds, there will be no monarchs.

What is PSC doing?

Building our own butterfly garden this spring!

In a joint project with PSC Foundation, the sustainability center has plans to build a butterfly garden in the courtyard between the main building and conference center.

The Student Sustainability Club will be raising additional funds to support the year one development and ongoing maintenance of the butterfly garden.



Fun Fact

In 1974, a third-grader from Decatur suggested the monarch butterfly become the state insect.

Illinois schoolchildren lobbied for the monarch butterfly and in 1975 the General Assembly passed a bill officially designating the monarch butterfly as the state insect.

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Alessandra Cairo, sustainability coordinator at acairo@prairiestate.edu.