



Monarch Butterfly Habitat

This area has been planted with flowers and milkweed to create habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators with funds from the Living Classrooms Grant Program provided by the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden.

OKC ZOO



Creating Living Classrooms to Combat Monarch Declines

OKLAHOMA CITY
 ZOO
+
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Dr. Emily Geest, postdoctoral fellow
Conservation, Education, and Science

The Living Classrooms Grant Program

- Oklahomans can take action to help monarchs by planting monarch gardens
- Increase knowledge, teacher capacity, nature connection, and habitat for monarchs in OKC
- Numbers:
 - 7th year of the program
 - 27 schools
 - Serve 13,000+ students annually in OKC
 - 703 meters² of habitat created
 - 800+ stems of milkweed



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Annual Timeline



Spring

Summer

Fall

Spring

- Grant opens
- 5-6 schools are awarded grants

- Attend two workshops
- Learn monarch biology & garden design
- Create a garden sketch
- Partner with gardening mentor
- Given curriculum

- Gardens installed by Nov 1st
- Emails to maintain engagement
- Teachers complete assessments

- Submit final report
- Photos of gardens
- Examples of student work
- Plan to maintain garden for 3 years

Program Evaluation

- Three different target groups
 - Teachers
 - Students
 - Pollinators
- Prelim data is positive across all three groups
- Tracks longevity of gardens



How well prepared do you feel to choose appropriate plants for a pollinator garden? (+1.17)

Increase in variety of plants (1.45 ± 0.16)
Increase in number of and types of insects (1.33 ± 0.22)

Butterflies 34 species
Hoverflies 11 species
Small bees 8 genera
Large bees 5 species
Wasps 10 species

What's next?

- 2024 application period has opened (5-6 schools will be awarded)
- Introduction of a maintenance grant to help established gardens, 5 schools awarded in 2023
- Post-garden survey to evaluate long-term impacts
- Continued insect surveys this summer

