

## Monarch City USA – 2018 Update



In August 2018, the City of Denton became the first member of Monarch City USA in Texas. Prior to this, the City was already showing their support for local pollinators by hosting a Monarch Watch class. In June, the City celebrated pollinator week by hosting a pollinator-themed story time and a SCRAP workshop. These events were very popular, with 150 individuals in attendance. Denton has also hosted 10 gardening class throughout the spring and fall, with more than 350 participants.

At Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center (CCNHC), there are six gardens supported by local pollinators. These gardens are composed of native plants and maintained by both the staff and volunteers. All of the gardens utilize a combination of native and adaptive plants with organic gardening practices. One is specifically designed to attract butterflies; however, they all serve as demonstration gardens for the public and students who visit CCNHC. On average, there are around 5,000 Denton ISD students who visit Clear Creek each year.

The City is planning to host its first Pollinator Festival in June during pollinator week. In 2019, we would also like to continue workshops on gardening and monitoring monarchs. Next, Denton plans to place four signs around the city to spread awareness. Lastly, we hope to expand the pollinator gardens at CCNHC and partner with Denton Sustainable Schools to increase education on pollinators within Denton ISD.

