



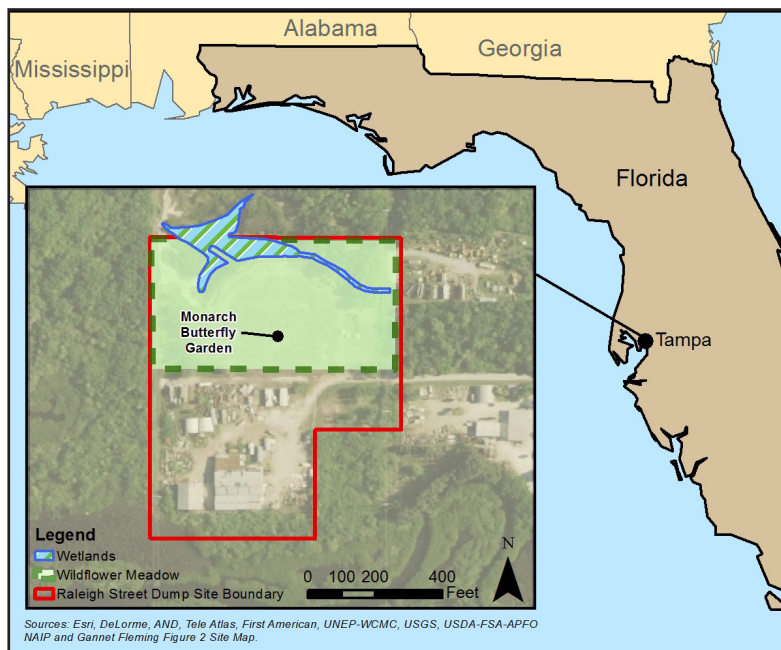
# Supporting the Health of Pollinators

## Pollinator Habitat at the Raleigh Street Dump Superfund Site

### Site Background and Cleanup

Raleigh Street Dump accepted battery casings, furnace slag, trash and construction debris at this 10-acre area in Tampa, Florida, from 1977 to 1991. Other parts of the site include wetlands, vacant land and fill areas. EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 2009 because of contaminated soil and groundwater resulting from past waste handling practices.

To clean up the site, potentially responsible parties (PRPs) removed contaminated soils and replaced them with clean material, planted grass, restored wetlands and monitored groundwater. The PRPs continue to monitor progress regularly. Parts of the site are in ecological reuse as wildlife habitat. Tampa Fiberglass continues to run a production facility on the southern part of the site.



Milkweed in the Monarch butterfly gardens on site.

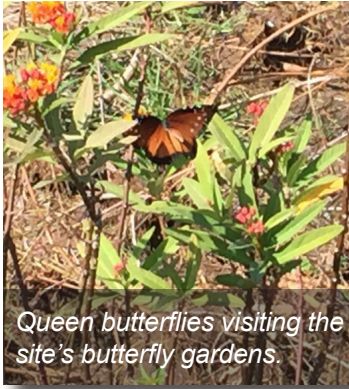
### Partnering on a Wildflower Meadow and Butterfly Garden

After construction of the site's remedy in 2013, site PRPs started working with the National Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). The goal was to support ecological reuse by creating, restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on site. Project efforts have restored and expanded wetlands, installed bird nesting boxes and bat boxes, created habitat brush piles and tackled invasive exotic plant species.

In October 2013, PRPs created a 4-acre wildflower and native grass meadow on site. It supports the health of pollinators, providing nectar, pollen and habitat where bees, birds and butterflies can thrive. In April 2015, the PRPs also established two Monarch butterfly gardens as part of the wildflower meadow, planting milkweed to increase Monarch habitat.

### What Are Pollinators? Why Are They Important?

A pollinator is an insect or animal that moves pollen within or to another flower, fertilizing the plant. There are about 200,000 species of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles, birds and bats. Many types of plants, including vegetable and fruit crops, require pollination to bear fruit. Recent declines in pollinator populations – and bees in particular – have raised concerns about the future of food supplies worldwide.



Queen butterflies visiting the site's butterfly gardens.



Queen butterfly larva on site.

## Ensuring Native Plant Survival

Pollinators are attracted to native plant species for their food and habitat. Following Wildlife Habitat Council recommendations, site PRPs continue to make sure native plants thrive on the site. The wildflower meadow is monitored regularly for native plant growth. Non-native species found during monitoring are removed. PRPs also make sure that native plant species cover at least 95 percent of the site's wetlands. If non-native plant species are found across more than 5 percent of the wetlands, they are removed.

## Planting Pollinator-Friendly Species

Wildflower and native grass seeds for the 4-acre meadow were provided by a local co-op and planted in 2014 and 2015. Plantings include black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), spotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) and several species of tickseed (*Coreopsis*), goldenrod (*Solidago*) and blazing star (*Liatris*). The milkweed in the butterfly gardens also does more than host monarch eggs; they are the only plant that monarch larvae will feed on. Milkweed sustains the health of monarch butterflies throughout their life cycle.

## Award-Winning Work

*In November 2015, Wildlife Habitat Council awarded PRPs CSX/ALI and subcontractor Gannett-Fleming its "Rookie of the Year" award for their post-cleanup work restoring and enhancing the site's native habitat.*

*The PRPs partnered with the Council under the "Wildlife at Work" program, a voluntary program promoting habitat conservation on corporate lands.*

The site's 3 acres of restored wetlands provides additional habitat for pollinators. Native species planted in 2013 include 600 white mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) – which have flowers that attract bees and wasps – and 230 dune sunflowers (*Helianthus debilis*), which provide nectar for pollinators.

The ecological reuse of the Raleigh Street Dump Superfund site illustrates how federal cleanup sites can support a range of ecological opportunities, including pollinator habitat.

## Supporting Pollinator Health

EPA supports the health of pollinators in many ways. Efforts include:

- Co-chairing the Pollinator Health Task Force established by the 2014 Pollinator Presidential Memorandum. To read the Presidential Memorandum, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/20/presidential-memorandum-creating-federal-strategy-promote-health-honey-b>.
- Issuing guidance on how to minimize risks to pollinator health from pesticides and other chemicals.
- Convening summits and conferences to discuss pollinator health.
- Partnering with pollinator-focused groups such as the Wildlife Habitat Council, the Pollinator Partnership and the Monarch Joint Venture. For more information on EPA's Pollinator Partnership, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/partners-pollinator-protection>.
- Promoting the ecological reuse of Superfund sites and other areas, with special assistance and incentives for pollinator-friendly reuses.
- Recognizing the efforts of responsible parties and other stakeholders for supporting pollinator health.

For more information on EPA's support of pollinator protection and health, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/epa-actions-protect-pollinators>.

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