

A CROWNING COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT

Years ago, Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*) and other butterflies had abandoned this park due to a combination of dead and dying trees, urban development, pesticides and an infestation of beetles that attacked the existing old grove of eucalyptus trees.

February 2007, a presentation was made by Leslie Gilson to the Huntington Beach City Council proposing preservation, protection and management of Norma E. Gibbs Park, fondly referred to as "Gibb's Butterfly Park".

A comprehensive stewardship plan was created to restore the Monarch habitat, with Leslie Gilson as Restoration Coordinator.

The Huntington Beach Tree Society partnered with the City to revitalize the park. Other volunteers and sponsors were inspired to join them.

RESTORATION MILESTONES

May 2007: The City removed 179 compromised trees.

April 2008: Arbor Day: 170 community members planted more than 700 butterfly-attracting shrubs and flowers in the park's north bed. The first core of new trees was purchased and planted by the H.B. Tree Society.

October 2009: The south bed was planted, and more trees were added to the park.

October 2011: Surrounding the large mosaic, 8 life cycle medallions were installed. The butterfly art was commissioned by the H.B. Tree Society and created by artist Lubica Selecka. Some years later the mosaics were conserved and enhanced. Today, these tiles enable everyone to follow the magnificent Monarch's journey.

2013: The migration began and continued to steadily increase over time.

June 2022: This plaque was installed to express appreciation and gratitude to all who helped to turn the park into a place of serenity, where everyone can learn about and enjoy the beauty of nature.