



# City of Sweeny

P.O. BOX 248 ★ 102 W. ASHLEY WILSON RD. ★ SWEENEY, TEXAS 77480  
(979) 548-3321 ★ FAX (979) 548-7745

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:  
Cindy King  
City of Sweeny  
979-548-3321  
[clking@ci.sweeny.tx.us](mailto:clking@ci.sweeny.tx.us)

### **City of Sweeny and Phillips 66 Partner to Help Restore Disappearing Monarch** *Grant funding will support planting of needed habitat which is rapidly declining*

**[Sweeny TX, November 13, 2015]** – Keep your eyes open for some unusual gardens popping up in Sweeny. At first glance they may look a little wild and weedy but they have a very special purpose – saving the threatened monarch butterfly.

Phillips 66, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and City of Sweeny are working together to help restore the declining population of monarch butterflies by planting gardens that contain milkweed, the iconic black and orange butterfly's favorite breeding ground and fueling station for their extraordinary annual migration and life cycle. This all comes as part of a grant through Phillips 66 and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

In the last 20 years, the population of monarch butterflies has tragically declined by an estimated 90 percent. Contributing to their demise is the loss of habitat – particularly milkweed—at an estimated 2 million acres per year in the U.S. due primarily to deforestation and development. Restoring and creating this special habitat is essential to bringing back the monarchs, which have directly felt the impact of human activities on natural systems.

Local parks across the country are aiding in the restoration of the threatened butterfly by creating special gardens, or waystations, which allow the female monarch to lay eggs on milkweed and provide nourishment for larvae as they grow. Sweeny is one of sixteen communities receiving a grant to support their efforts.

Sweeny and Phillips 66 are planting three monarch butterfly gardens. They will be located in Backyard Park, Exa Mae Keller Park and at the TJT Memorial Walking Trail. Grant funding from Phillips 66 is supporting these efforts.

For more information about how local parks and recreation are helping to save the monarch butterfly, visit [www.nrpa.org/parks4monarchs/](http://www.nrpa.org/parks4monarchs/).

**The National Recreation and Park Association** is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. Through its network of 50,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit [www.NRPA.org](http://www.NRPA.org). For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, *Parks & Recreation*, visit [www.parksandrecreation.org](http://www.parksandrecreation.org).