

This checklist was created through Oakland County Parks participation in the North American Butterfly Association Counts, in part to a group of dedicated volunteer butterfly enthusiasts and through research by Oakland University's Jamieson Lab.

Visit the Butterflies of Oakland County, MI Guide on iNaturalist: tinyurl.com/OCpbutterflies.

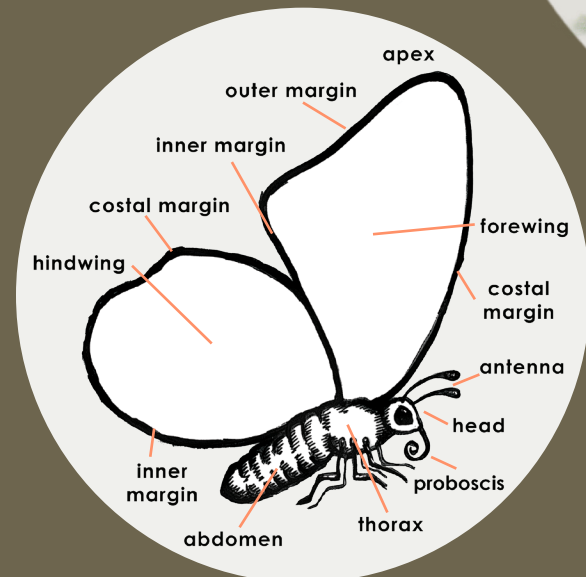
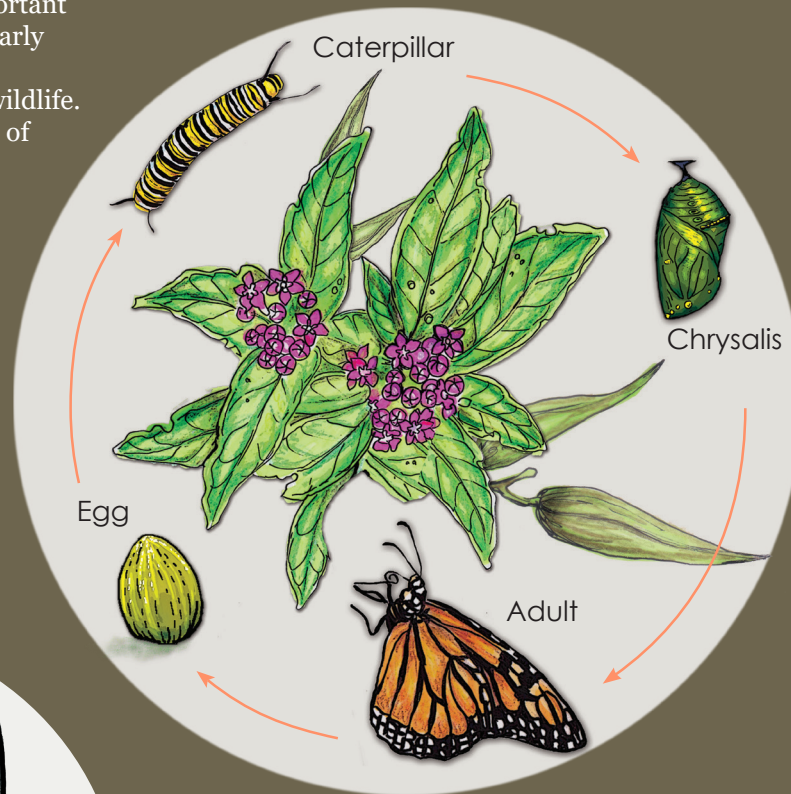
Have to have a habitat

The 14 Oakland County Parks are important ecological sites in Oakland County. Nearly 7,000 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands provide essential habitat to wildlife. Butterflies require pesticide-free fields of flowers for nectar, but they also need different plants to serve as food for caterpillars.

Have to have a host

A butterfly's life cycle begins with a unique association between the butterflies and the plants (hosts) they need for their larvae to develop. Many caterpillars can only eat one kind of plant - think monarchs and milkweed!

Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly



Butterfly Anatomy

Adult butterflies have three body sections, six legs and two antennae. Butterflies have four wings — two forewings and two hindwings. The upper and under sides of the wings may display different color patterns. Learning the anatomy of the butterflies will help with identification.

Try butterfly watching at the Oakland County Parks.

According to *Butterflies and Moths of North America*, 106 of the 166 butterflies found in Michigan can be seen in Oakland County. If you find a species not listed, please add it and let us know by including photos through email at: parksnr@oakgov.com. Or report through an account on iNaturalist.

ADDISON OAKS
W. Romeo Road,
Leonard

CATALPA OAKS
Greenfield Road,
Southfield

GROVELAND OAKS
Dixie Highway,
Holly

HIGHLAND OAKS
N. Milford Road,
Highland

INDEPENDENCE OAKS
Sashabaw Road,
Clarkston

LYON OAKS
Pontiac Trail,
Wixom

ORION OAKS
Clarkston Road,
Lake Orion

RED OAKS
13 Mile Road,
Madison Heights

ROSE OAKS
Fish Lake Road,
Holly

SPRINGFIELD OAKS
Andersonville Road,
Davisburg

WATERFORD OAKS
Scott Lake Road,
Waterford

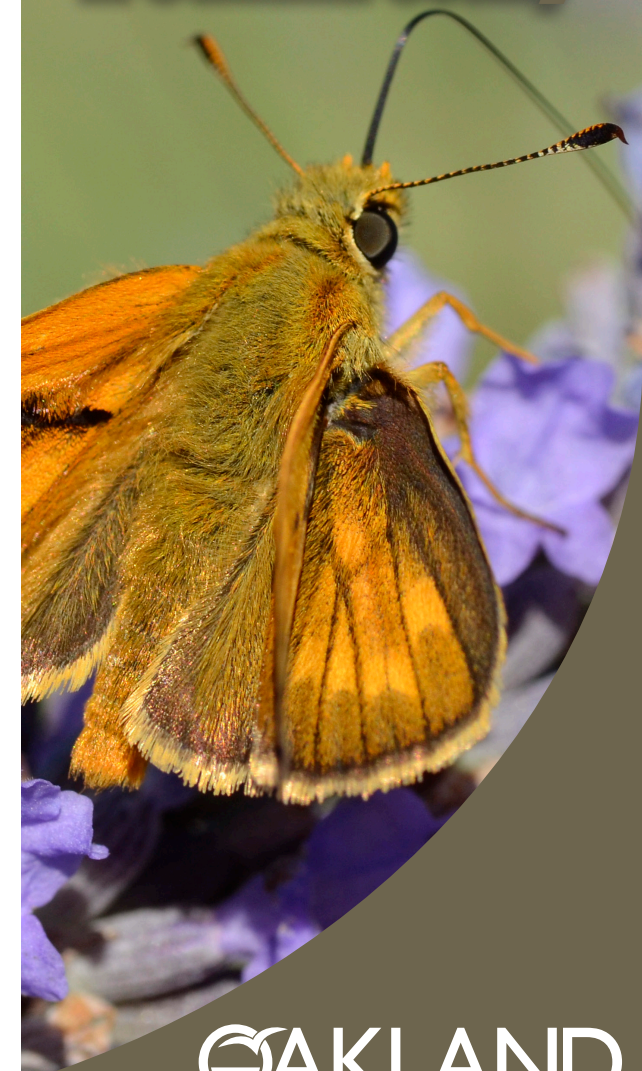
All Abilities WELCOME



07/23



A Checklist of BUTTERFLIES in Oakland County



OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

OaklandCountyParks.com

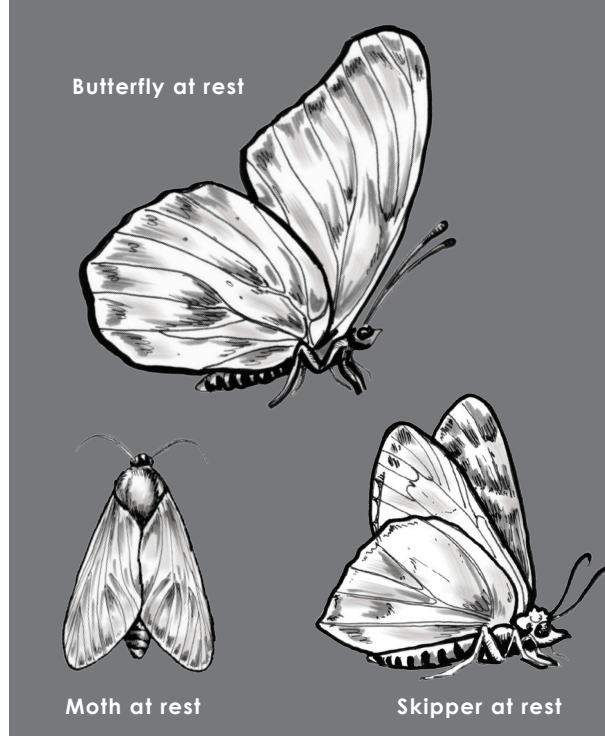
OBSERVER(S)	
Date	Total Species
Location	
Weather	
Notes	

Common Name	Scientific Name	✓
Swallowtails		
Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	
Giant Swallowtail	<i>Papilio cressphontes</i>	
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	
Spicebush Swallowtail	<i>Papilio troilus</i>	
Whites & Sulphurs		
Mustard White	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	
Cabbage White*	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	
Clouded Sulphur	<i>Colias philodice</i>	
Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	
Gossamer-Wings		
Harvester	<i>Feniseca tarquinius</i>	
American Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	
Bronze Copper	<i>Lycaena hyllus</i>	
Dorcas Copper	<i>Lycaena dorcas</i>	
Coral Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium titus</i>	
Acadian Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium acadica</i>	
Edwards' Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium edwardsii</i>	
Banded Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium calanus</i>	
Hickory Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium caryaevorus</i>	
Striped Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium liparops</i>	
Blues		
Eastern Tailed-Blue	<i>Everes comyntas</i>	
Spring Azure	<i>Celastrina ladon</i>	
Summer Azure	<i>Celastrina neglectaneglecta</i>	
Silvery Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	

Brushfooted Butterflies		
Great Spangled Fritillary	<i>Speyeria cybele</i>	
Silver-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>	
Harris' Checkerspot	<i>Chlosyne harrisii</i>	
Pearl Crescent	<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	
Baltimore Checkerspot	<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>	
Question Mark	<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	
Eastern Comma	<i>Polygonia comma</i>	
Gray Comma	<i>Polygonia progne</i>	
Mourning Cloak	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	
American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginienis</i>	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	
Red-spotted Purple	<i>Limenitis arthemis astyanax</i>	
Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	
Tawny Emperor	<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	
Northern Pearly-eye	<i>Lethe anthedon</i>	
Eyed Brown	<i>Lethe eurydice</i>	
Appalachian Brown	<i>Lethe appalachia</i>	
Little Wood-Satyr	<i>Megisto cymela</i>	
Common Ringlet	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	
Common Wood-Nymph	<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	
Skippers		
Silver-spotted Skipper	<i>Epargyreus clarus</i>	
Southern Cloudywing	<i>Thorybes bathyllus</i>	
Northern Cloudywing	<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	
Juvenal's Duskywing	<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	
Wild Indigo Duskywing	<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	
Common Checkered-Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	
Common Sootywing	<i>Pholisora catullus</i>	
Least Skipper	<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>	
European Skipper*	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	
Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	
Peck's Skipper	<i>Polites peckius</i>	
Tawny-edged Skipper	<i>Polites themistocles</i>	
Long Dash	<i>Polites mystic</i>	
Northern Broken-Dash	<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	

Little Glassywing	<i>Pompeius verna</i>	
Delaware Skipper	<i>Anatrytone logan</i>	
Mulberry Wing	<i>Poanes massasoit</i>	
Hobomok Skipper	<i>Poanes hobomok</i>	
Zabulon Skipper	<i>Poanes zabulon</i>	
Broad-winged Skipper	<i>Poanes viator</i>	
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	
Black Dash	<i>Euphyes conspicua</i>	
Dun Skipper	<i>Euphyes vestris</i>	
Common Roadside-Skipper	<i>Amblyscirtes vialis</i>	
Other Species		

State Status Rank Key:
E = Endangered **T** = Threatened
SC = Special Concern * = Non-Native



Is it a Butterfly?
 Butterflies belong to an order of insects known as **Lepidoptera** which means scaled wings. Moths and skippers are also in this order. Generally, moths are active at night while butterflies fly during the day.

Moths are not as colorful as butterflies. Butterfly antennae look like miniature golf clubs with a long shaft ending in a club. Moth antennae are feathered or small. Seen at rest, they position their wings differently.

Skippers are small to medium sized butterflies. They are duller in color and dart in flight. Their larger bodies have powerful wing muscles along with wider heads and larger eyes. Unlike other butterflies, they have hook-like projections at the end of their clubbed antennae.

Other ID Clues
 Wing patterns and color help to identify butterflies, but there are other clues, such as:

- Size**—swallowtails are big and blues are small.
- Shape**—look closely for tails on the hindwings or scallops on the outer wing margins.
- Posture**—look at the way the insect sits. Butterflies fold their wings tightly over their backs. Moths spread their wings flat.
- Flight style**—some butterflies flit and dart while others float.
- Fine details**—Viceroy look like Monarchs, but have a black band across their hindwings.

Butterfly Conservation
 Butterflies are disappearing due to habitat loss, pollution and indiscriminate use of insecticides.

If you would like to view images of some of the butterflies on this checklist and submit more. Visit the Butterflies of Oakland County, MI Guide on iNaturalist: tinyurl.com/OCPbutterflies. Register to submit your own observations.

Invite a butterfly to lunch in your yard by planting native plants like milkweed, butterfly weed, black eyed susan, lilac, aster or coneflowers.

