

## Enclave Butterfly Garden Summer Blooms Report

By Elizabeth White Olsen, GO Native Landscaping



Enclave Butterfly Garden looks spectacular and is attracting numerous butterflies and other pollinators. A few of the plants blooming profusely in June include:

**Texas Coneflower** (*Rudbeckia texana*)- These are the tall yellow flowers near the back of the garden. Texas Coneflowers are real showstoppers, as their stems can reach over six feet. If you've never met a flower taller than you, it's a happy, humbling moment that everyone should experience at least once.

**Woolly Rose Mallow Hibiscus** (*Hibiscus lasiocarpus*) & **Virginia Saltmarsh Mallow** (*Kosteletzkya virginica*) - These

flowering shrubs both look like hibiscus, but they're not the Asian variety you find at big box stores. These are our native Texas hibiscus, which have evolved in tandem with our local pollinators and support them. Both hibiscus are blooming near the back of the garden: Woolly Rose Mallow is the shrub with large, creamy white, trumpet-shaped flowers that have beet-red centers, and Virginia Saltmarsh Mallow is a shrub festooned with bubblegum-pink hibiscus blooms.

**Aquatic Milkweed** (*Pluchea odorata*) - The short, white-flowered Aquatic Milkweed attracts Monarch butterflies, as Monarchs need to lay their eggs on Milkweeds to reproduce. The number of butterflies in the Monarch migration that has passed through our area for tens of thousands of years has dramatically decreased in the past twenty years, so Aquatic Milkweed is a great plant to purchase if you want to help Monarchs.

If you'd like to beautify your backyard, these stunning flowers are often available at Greenstar Wetlands Plant Farm and Nextdoor Nursery and sometimes available at Buchanan's Nursery. All are perennials native to Harris County and prefer moist soil and full sun. You can see them IRL (in real life) by visiting Enclave Butterfly Garden at 3600 Mesa Drive. From the parking lot, take the sidewalk that runs alongside what everyone calls "the small pool." About sixty feet past the pool, you'll see a garden shaped like a butterfly. Look for the names of these flowers on the metal plant tags, and you can behold these stunning plants. While you're there, watch for butterflies!