

# VISIT GOLETA'S BUTTERFLIES



**Directions:** Exit Highway 101 at Hollister Avenue and turn toward the ocean. Turn left onto Hollister Avenue. After .6 miles, turn right at the stoplight for Ellwood School. Free parking is available in the lot at the Ellwood Mesa Open Space. Parking lot GPS coordinates: 34.429018, -119.897017.

The grove is a little over a half mile from the parking lot and trail markers highlight the path. Wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars to maximize your viewing experience.

## Facts About Monarchs

- Thirty days after the egg is laid a butterfly emerges and stretches its wings.
- After leaving the wintering site a female will lay up to 400 eggs on milkweed leaves.
- She lays only one egg on each leaf sort of a warning to others that that leaf is taken.
- After the caterpillar hatches it is very hungry and ravenously eats the host milkweed.
- As it grows, it molts and with each molting takes on more of the coloring of the Monarch.
- When the Monarch emerges from the pupa stage the wings are flat. The butterfly pumps blood from its body to fill out the wings.
- For the first hour or two the Monarch is very vulnerable to predators, but the milkweed protects them with a bad smell.
- The Monarch butterfly no longer has a mouth for eating, but can suck nectar from flowers and water which is vital for life.
- The largest wintering site (November-February) in Southern California is at the Ellwood Main Monarch Aggregation Site in the Goleta Butterfly Grove.



The Goleta Butterfly Grove is owned and managed by the City of Goleta.

For more information about this community treasure, visit [www.GoletaButterflyGrove.com](http://www.GoletaButterflyGrove.com) or call the City of Goleta at 805-961-7510.