

Project Highlight: Butterfly Gardens and Pollinator Habitats

ORNL is committed to supporting DOE as a member of the **US Federal Pollinator Health Task Force** co-chaired by the Department of Agriculture and the EPA. ORNL and other DOE locations are working with the Task Force to provide research support and practical applications at DOE sites. The **“National Strategy To Promote The Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators”** is a US policy that has been implemented by the Pollinator Task Force.

Goals include

- Reduce honey bee colony losses
- Increase monarch butterfly numbers
- Restore or enhance millions of acres of land for pollinators

ORNL Landscape Review Committee:

For more than a decade, the ORNL Landscaping Review Committee has been promoting the use of native plants in landscaping and enhancing natural areas around the ORNL campus. Native plants are one of the key components to improving pollinator habitat. ORNL has committed to increasing pollinator habitat acreage on campus by 5% each year for the next 5 years.

ORNL Natural Resources Management Program:

The ORNL Natural Resources Management Program conducts natural resources management tasks for the 32,000-acre ORR. This makes ORNL uniquely suited for real-world, practical applications of the important strategies developed by the Pollinator Task Force.

The reservation includes a DOE National Environmental Research Park, which is an outdoor laboratory that provides opportunities for environmental studies on the protected lands that surround the DOE facilities. The Research Park provides over 20,000 acres of ORR protected land for research and education, including opportunities for pollinator research and habitat improvement.

