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**Butterfly Pavilion Advances Pollinator Conservation with Key Contributions to
Groundbreaking U.S. Butterfly Decline Study**

WESTMINSTER, Colo. March 6, 2024 — A new [study](#) published today in *Science* reveals a stark decline in butterfly populations across the United States, with an overall 22% drop in abundance between 2000 and 2020 across the studied butterfly species. As a leader in invertebrate research, conservation, and education, Butterfly Pavilion played a critical role in this research, contributing data from its Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network and collaborating with nearly two dozen scientists in the *Status of Butterflies in the United States* working group. This study underscores the urgent need for pollinator conservation, a mission central to Butterfly Pavilion's ongoing efforts.

"This study confirms what we at Butterfly Pavilion have long recognized—many butterfly species are in trouble, and immediate conservation action is needed," said Shiran Hershcovich, Senior Lepidopterist Manager at Butterfly Pavilion and one of the authors of the paper. "By contributing to this research, we are helping to build the scientific foundation necessary to protect these delicate species and the ecosystems they sustain."

The study, which is the most comprehensive assessment of U.S. butterfly populations to date, found that in 20 years, we've lost 20% of our North American butterflies. Ten times as many butterfly species are declining than are increasing, with 107 species having lost more than 50% of their populations and 22 species declining by over 90%. That means that for every five butterflies seen 20 years ago, now there are only four.

"Pollinators like butterflies are critical to our environment, our food systems, and global biodiversity," said Nathalie Brochu, Interim CEO of Butterfly Pavilion. "Participating in this vital research reinforces Butterfly Pavilion's mission to protect invertebrates through science, conservation, and education. We hope these findings inspire people to take action—whether by planting pollinator-friendly gardens, reducing pesticide use, or supporting our habitat restoration efforts."

The research highlights habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change as primary drivers of these declines, but it also points to solutions. By providing host plants, nectar sources, and pesticide-free habitats, communities and conservationists can help stabilize and rebuild butterfly populations. They can also support pollinators through Butterfly Pavilion's Pollinator Awareness through Conservation and Education initiative (PACE) by visiting <https://butterflies.org/research-and-conserve/protecting-pollinators/> and participating in

programs such as butterfly monitoring, which is hosting trainings this spring for prospective community scientists.

Butterfly Pavilion continues to lead efforts in butterfly conservation through habitat restoration projects, community science programs, education, and scientific research. As a contributor to this study, Butterfly Pavilion remains committed to advancing conservation solutions that will help protect these species for future generations.

For more information on Butterfly Pavilion's conservation efforts and how to support butterfly populations, visit www.butterflies.org.