

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Over One-Fifth of North American Pollinators Face Elevated Risk of Extinction — Butterfly Pavilion Offers Pathways to Action to Celebrate National Pollinator Month**

**Westminster, CO (June 1, 2025)** A groundbreaking study recently published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) reveals that more than one in five pollinator species across mainland North America are at elevated risk of extinction.

The peer-reviewed study is the most comprehensive assessment of pollinators to date, examining nearly 1,600 species across both vertebrates and insects. Its findings highlight a growing crisis:

- 34.7% of bee species and 19.5% of butterfly species are threatened.
- Major threats include climate change, agriculture, urban development, and habitat loss, with the Southwestern U.S. identified as a hotspot for at-risk species.
- Alarmingly, all three pollinating bat species in the region face extinction.

Butterfly Pavilion, the world's first Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited, nonprofit, standalone invertebrate zoo, strongly commends the study's authors for shining a spotlight on this urgent issue. As a global leader in invertebrate research, conservation, and education, Butterfly Pavilion is calling attention to the pollinator crisis and empowering individuals, families, and communities to take meaningful action.

"This landmark study confirms what we've seen in our fieldwork across North America—pollinator populations are under serious threat, and we now have the data to strategically prioritize conservation efforts," said Dr. Rich Reading, Vice President of Science and Conservation at Butterfly Pavilion. "At Butterfly Pavilion, we're combining rigorous science with community action to protect the very species that underpin ecosystems and food security. These findings should serve as a call to scale up pollinator conservation through habitat restoration, sustainable land management, and robust scientific monitoring."

#### **A Hub for Hope and Action**

Butterfly Pavilion is committed to helping people protect biodiversity through habitat gardening, community science, and ecosystem restoration. Visitors to the zoo can experience invertebrate adaptations and behavior up close, and stroll through the outdoor Discovery Gardens to discover Colorado's native plants and pollinators in action. For those who want to get involved, Butterfly Pavilion offers a wide range of opportunities to join the movement; from hands-on gardening workshops to outdoor BioBlitz events and the statewide Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network, there are programs for people of all ages and abilities. Visit [butterflies.org/calendar/](https://butterflies.org/calendar/)

#### **Highlighted Pollinator Programs**

- **An Exclusive Look at Stingless Bee Conservation** – *June 5*  
Discover Butterfly Pavilion's global impact through this behind-the-scenes adult program.
- **Small Space and Patio Gardening** – *June 8*  
Perfect for apartment dwellers and small-space gardeners looking to make a big impact.
- **Pollinator Gardening Bootcamp: Continued Care** – *July 27*  
Build on your knowledge and maintain a thriving pollinator habitat.

## **Why It Matters**

Pollinators are essential to ecosystems and agriculture, providing over \$15 billion in annual value to North American food systems alone. Without them, biodiversity suffers—and so do we. Relatively little is known about invertebrates like pollinators compared to other groups of animals, despite the overwhelming importance of pollinator activity. The mitigation of this decline starts small, as communities can implement projects that improve the lives of local pollinators and ecosystems.

"Pollinators are foundational to life on Earth," said Reading. "This study is a wake-up call, but it's also a call to action. Together, we can protect these critical species and the ecosystems they support.

## **Support the Cause**

In addition to attending programs and learning how to create pollinator-friendly spaces, individuals can make a direct impact by supporting Butterfly Pavilion's conservation work. **[<https://butterflies.app.neoncrm.com/forms/11>]** to donate and help safeguard the future of pollinators across North America.

## **About Butterfly Pavilion**

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[www.butterflies.org](http://www.butterflies.org)

Butterfly Pavilion has been part of the Colorado community since 1995 and is the first Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited, stand-alone, non-profit invertebrate zoo in the world, currently occupying a 34,000-square foot facility situated on an 11-acre campus provided by the City of Westminster, Colorado. Butterfly Pavilion's mission is to foster an appreciation of invertebrates by educating the public about the need to protect and care for threatened habitats globally, while conducting research for solutions in invertebrate conservation. Beyond Colorado and the United States, Butterfly Pavilion conservationists are doing important invertebrate conservation projects around the world from Mongolia and Sumatra to Tanzania and Mexico. Learn more at [www.butterflies.org](http://www.butterflies.org)