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Butterfly Pavilion and City of Westminster Forge Transformational Agreement to Keep Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster

Partnership launches a shared vision to build a state-of-the-art campus for invertebrate research, conservation, education, and immersive guest experiences.

Westminster, Colo., [September 8, 2025] – Today, Butterfly Pavilion and the City of Westminster proudly announce a signed Letter of Intent to keep Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster and begin a phased renovation and expansion. The goal is to grow Butterfly Pavilion into a world-class destination that welcomes more visitors from around the world and strengthens Colorado's economy, while deepening its impact in the community and beyond.

"This partnership is a bold step toward the future," said Mark Corbett, Board Chair, Butterfly Pavilion. "It's about creating something visionary, not just for Butterfly Pavilion, but for Westminster and the entire region. Together, we're laying the groundwork for a dynamic campus that will spark innovation, inspire environmental leadership, and serve as a model for how cities and cultural institutions can shape a better, more sustainable world."

This early-stage public-private partnership outlines a shared vision to improve Butterfly Pavilion's current site at 104th Avenue and establish Westminster as a global hub for invertebrate research, conservation, education, and nature-based experiences, rooted in the urgent mission to protect and conserve invertebrates, animals without backbones that are the foundation of life on Earth.

"This partnership is a testament to the City of Westminster's vision and unwavering support," said Ryan Welch, President and CEO of Butterfly Pavilion. "Together, we're not just building a new campus – we're investing in curiosity, conservation, and community. It's a heartfelt affirmation of what we can achieve when civic leaders and mission-driven organizations unite for the greater good."

"Butterfly Pavilion has been part of the fabric of our community for three decades," said Westminster Mayor Nancy McNally. "This new chapter ensures that families who live, work, and play in Westminster will continue to have access to one of the most unique, inspiring places in the country, right in their own backyard. We're proud to support a project that enriches lives, strengthens our city, and connects people of all ages to the natural world."

A Partnership with Purpose

Planning is already underway to develop a long-term strategy that sets the stage for growth,

funding opportunities, and a shared vision to build a renowned institution that serves the community and advances efforts to protect and conserve invertebrates and their habitats.

Invertebrates make up 97% of all animal species on Earth and are essential to healthy ecosystems. They pollinate crops, recycle nutrients, support soil and water systems, and sustain life across the planet. Despite their importance, invertebrates are often overlooked and increasingly at risk. This expansion makes it possible to raise awareness and protect these vital creatures at a time when the planet needs it most.

“With thoughtful planning and deep community support, the expanded Butterfly Pavilion will stand as a place where science meets storytelling, conservation becomes action, and small wonders lead to big change,” said Welch.

To learn more and support Butterfly Pavilion’s efforts visit
<https://butterflies.org/vision-for-the-future>

For interviews, please contact:

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About Butterfly Pavilion

Butterfly Pavilion, celebrating its 30th year in 2025, 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, located in 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 research, conservation, and education projects around the world from Mongolia and Mexico to Tanzania and Sumatra, Indonesia. www.butterflies.org

About City of Westminster

Westminster, Colorado, is a thriving suburban city located between Denver and Boulder and strategically positioned along the U.S. 36 corridor. Westminster is a key destination for residents and businesses, offering economic opportunity and exceptional access to Colorado’s natural beauty. With its strong sense of community, high quality of life, and forward-thinking, Westminster continues to grow as one of the most desirable places to live and work in the region. The City of Westminster has been fortunate to have the Butterfly Pavilion call Westminster its home for the past 30 years, serving as a nationally recognized center for invertebrate science and conservation. This one-of-a-kind attraction reflects the city’s commitment to education, sustainability, and unique community experiences now and for future generations.

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