Community Butterfly Scaping:
How to have a large-scale butterfly habitat

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Butterfly Scaping expands the concept of butterfly gardening through the community-wide preservation and planting of butterfly host vegetation, including street trees, small trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. Common grounds, roadides, sidewalks, natural areas, dry retention areas, stormwater ponds, undeveloped areas, easements and residential yards in new and existing communities are components of ButterflyScapes.

Butterfly Bouquets

EXAMPLE HOST PLANT COMBINATIONS

Blue Plumbago (Cassius Blue), Coontie (Atala Hairstreak), Partridge Pea (Cloudless Sulphur, Gray Hairstreak, Ceraunus Blue) (blue, yellow and white)

Carolina Wild Petunia (Common Buckeye), Passionflower (Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian, Variegated Fritillary), Fogfruit (Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye, White Peacock) (all purple flowers at three different heights)

Twinflower (Common Buckeye), Carolina Wild Petunia and Sunshine Mimosa (Little Yellow) (two purples and a pink)

Bay Cedar (Martial Scrub-Hairstreak; Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak), Blue Plumbago, Passion Flower (Bay Cedar for warmer coastal areas)

Town centers can transform their sidewalk container gardens into beautiful and dynamic butterfly magnets by focusing on host plants and adding some nectar.
Consider turning your stormwater drainage pond into a community amenity. Florida-Friendly Landscaping recommends a 10-foot vegetative buffer pond-side to help cleanse pollution. While a variety of the plants are available at some nurseries, a number of the plants may already exist by your community pond. One of the concepts of ButterflyScaping is to preserve existing, non-invasive host vegetation, then plan around it.

**EXAMPLE POND HOST VEGETATION AND BUTTERFLIES**

**GROUNDCOVER OR SOD**
- Fogfruit—Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye, White Peacock
- Passionflower (vine)—Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian
- Pellitory (peninsular Florida)—Red Admiral
- Native grasses—Skippers

**TREES**
- Bastard Indigobush—Silver-spotted Skipper; Southern Dogface
- Cabbage Palm—Monk Skipper
- Dahoon Holly—Henry’s Elfin (north)
- Elm—Question Mark (north)
- Green Ash—Tiger Swallowtail (north)
- Sugarberry—American Snout, Tawny Emperor, Hackberry Emperor, Question Mark
- Sweetbay—Tiger Swallowtail (south)
- Willow—Viceroy

**PLANT BUFFER**
- False Nettle—Red Admiral
- Partridge Pea—Cloudless Sulphur, Ceraunus Blue, Gray Hairstreak
- Swamp Milkweed—Monarch, Queen
- Switchcane—Southern Pearly-eye and several Skippers
- Wax Myrtle—Red-banded Hairstreak

**POUND**

**Pond edge**
- Alligator Flag (south)—Brazilian Skipper
- Mock Bishop’s Weed—Black Swallowtail
- Sedges and Sawgrass—various skippers
- Waterhyssop—White Peacock (south)
- Yellow Canna—Brazilian Skipper

**Pond mats** *(undergoing trials)*
- Yellow Canna and Alligator Flag—Brazilian Skipper
- *Mock Bishop’s Weed—Black Swallowtail
- *Fogfruit (Phaon Crescent, Common Buckeye, White Peacock)
- *False nettle or Pellitory—Red Admiral
- Nectar: *Bur-Marigold, *Cardinal Flower and Pickerel Weed