

## BUTTERFLY PARK

The department of Forest and Wildlife U.T. Chandigarh is developing a butterfly park in Sector 26, Chandigarh. The park spreads over an area of 7 acre.

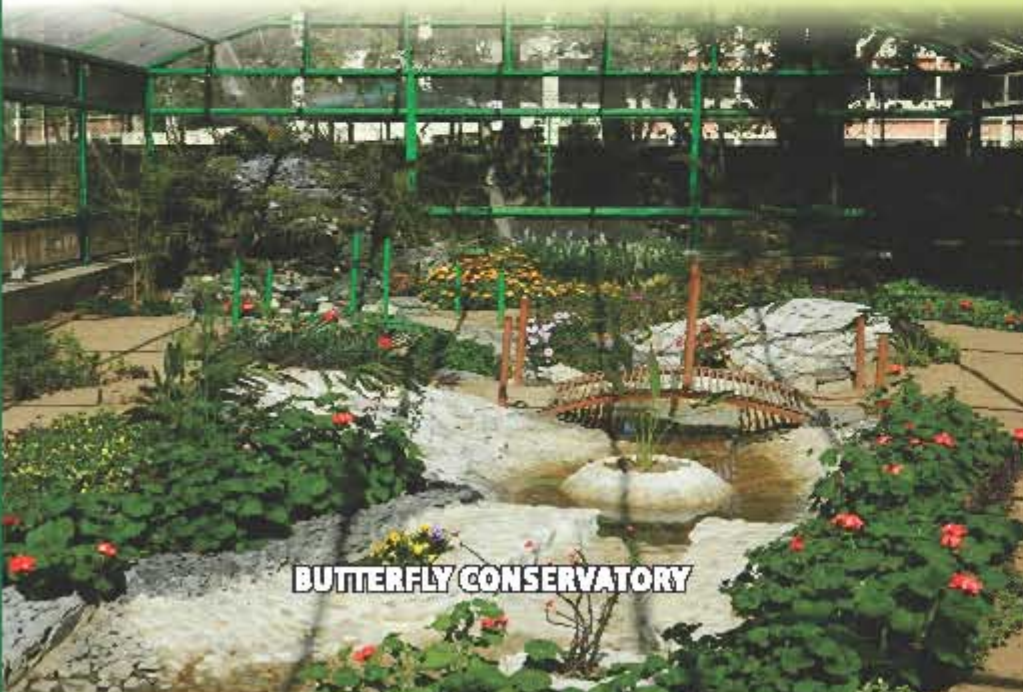
### PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

1. To establish centre for Conservation, Education & Recreation which will be helpful in understanding better butterflies the "Valuable Bioresources".
2. To promote Educational and Training programmes for school and college students.
3. To establish an Interpretation centre to provide information of butterflies, their importance and conservation values.

The endeavour of Forest Department is to develop a park full of host and nectar plants so as to make the habitat congenial to butterflies. In this park a conservatory has been constructed. The size of conservatory is 20x10 mtr. The prime objective behind making this conservatory is to increase the probability of butterfly sighting to the visitors. To create a successful butterfly habitat, the most indispensable and critical requirement is identification and plantation of host plants. In this park, a wide variety of host plants like-Ashok, Salix, Mango, Citrus, Amla, Palm, Ixora, Bael etc. have been planted more than 35 species of butterflies. Further to ensure food availability a large number of flowering plants have also been planted.

### FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN BUTTERFLY PARK

1. Nature Trail
2. Butterfly conservatory
3. Interpretation Centre
4. Interpretive Boards
5. Signages (directional)
6. Host/Nectar plant boards



### WHEN U CAN FIND BUTTERFLIES IN THIS PARK?

Butterflies can be seen throughout the year in this park. The sighting is very good during the warmer months-February to October. During the extreme winter period December and January sighting is less, but not impossible, with persistent endeavour and patience you can witness them. March to August are the best months, and butterflies of different varieties may be seen in this park on the host and nectar plants. The most common varieties one can witness are - Leopard, Plain Tiger, Striped Tiger, Lime Butterfly, Pansy, Cabbage butterfly, Common Mormon etc.

### BENEFITS OF BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies are bright-colored objects in our environment. They are believed to be free spirits in their flight and lack on constraints. They are harmless, innocent creatures, so lots of people enjoy looking at them. Some butterflies are "good" because they play an important role as pollinators. Butterflies are very sensitive to pollution, the presence of butterfly is one of the best indicator of healthy forest/eco system.

### THREAT TO BUTTERFLIES

Habitat destruction across the world is the major cause of Butterfly extinction which is almost entirely due to human activity. Other significant threats area:

- Urbanization.
- Clearing of Forests & Pollution
- Monoculture and planting of exotics
- Use of pesticides/insecticides
- Illegal trade of butterfly



Conserve Butterflies, Conserve Environment



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# Butterfly Park Chandigarh





## BUTTERFLY : AN INTRODUCTION

Butterfly is an insect of the order Lepidoptera. Butterflies are notable for their unusual life cycle with a larval caterpillar stage, an inactive pupal stage, and spectacular colourful winged adult form. The eggs are usually laid on a plant that the larva uses for food. Most caterpillars eat leaves. After the last of several molts the larva is transformed into a pupa which ultimately changes to the adult form. Most species are day-flying so they regularly attract attention. The diverse patterns formed by their brightly coloured wings and their erratic, yet graceful flight have make butterfly watching a hobby.



### LIFE SPAN OF A BUTTERFLY

Different butterfly species have different adult potential life spans. An average butterfly species has an adult life span of 2 weeks or even less. However some long-lived tropical butterflies live up to six months as adults.

## FOOD

Butterflies feed primarily on nectar from flowers. Some also derive nourishment from pollen, tree sap, rotting fruit, dung and dissolved minerals in wet sand or dirt. As adults, butterflies consume only liquids and these are sucked by means of their proboscis. They also sip water from damp patches. This they do for water, for energy from sugars in nectar and for sodium and other minerals which are vital for their reproduction.

Several species of butterflies need more sodium than provided by nectar. They are attracted to sodium in salt and they sometimes land on people, attracted by human sweat.



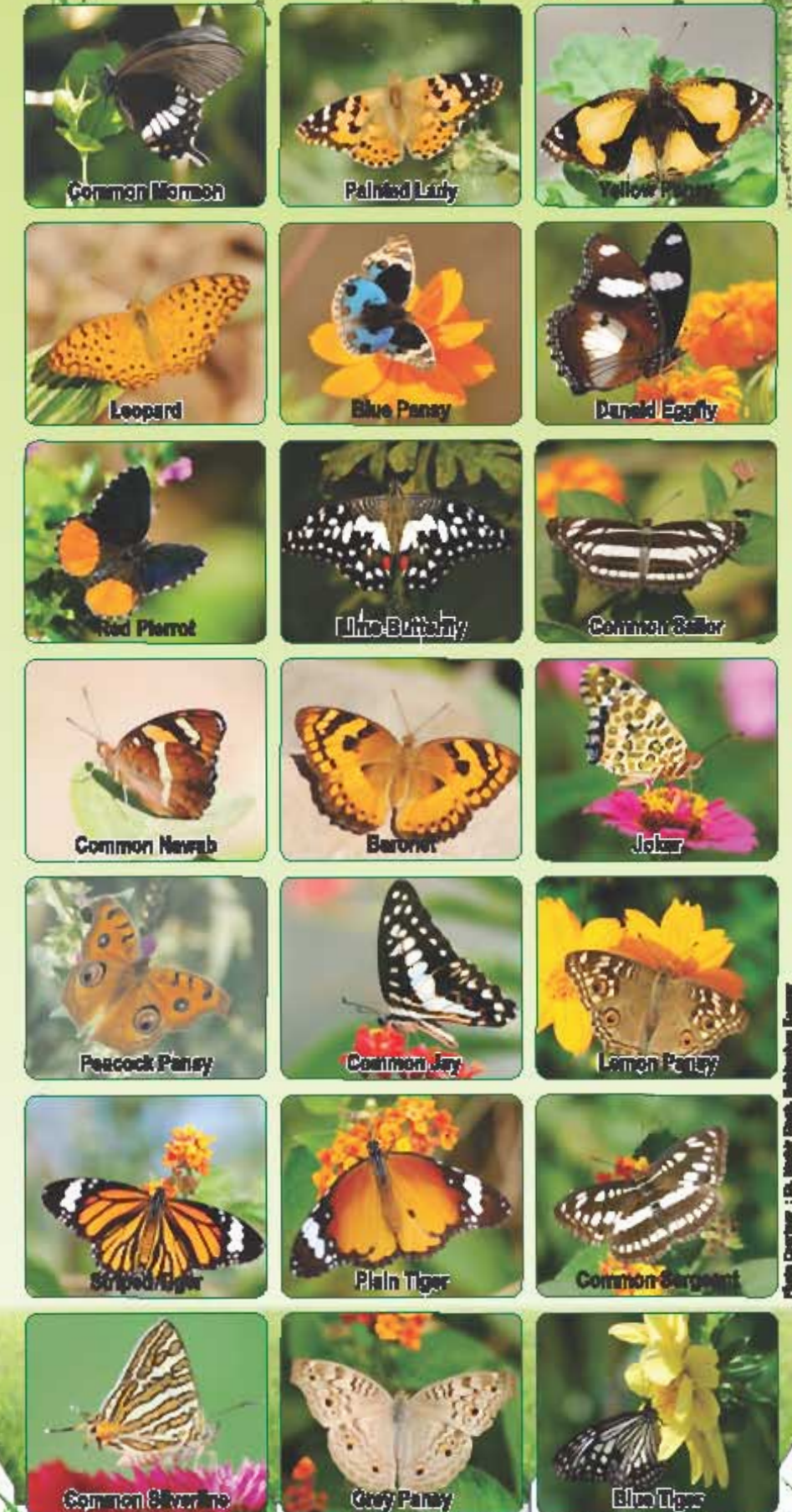
## HOST PLANTS

Different life stages of butterfly have limited host plant range. To create a successful butterfly park the most indispensable and critical requirement is identification of host plants and continuous supply of food for consistent rearing of the life stages of butterflies. In the butterfly park department has planted host plants like Mango, Citrus, Salix, Ixora, Amla, Ashoka Etc. which are specific to 35 species of butterflies identified in this park.



Host plant (Citrus Species)

## Butterflies of Chandigarh



"SAVE BUTTERFLIES, SAVE ECO SYSTEM"