**SCHROEDER MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE DAKOTA SCIENCE CENTER**

 **BUTTERFLY GARDEN AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**

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HISTORY

 During the summer of 2003, the Dakota Science Center partnered with the Grand Forks Horticultural Society to build the Butterfly Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The original garden was located at 308 South 5th Street and was constructed to resemble a butterfly in flight. Adults working with children were able to utilize the garden as an outdoor classroom with the help of teaching modules that were provided by the Dakota Science Center.

 The Dakota Science Center approached Schroeder Middle School during the 2004-2005 school year with a proposal to move the Butterfly Garden and Outdoor Classroom to the school grounds. With the help of Sharon Criswell, Laura Munski, Vince Ames, Lorraine O’Shea, Grand Forks Public Schools Buildings and Grounds, Dwight’s Tree Service, Schroeder’s Summer Art Class and the Schroeder Hawks team, the garden was moved in May 2005. The garden once again has the shape of a butterfly in flight and will be used as an outdoor classroom at Schroeder.

THE SCHROEDER GARDEN

The Schroeder Butterfly Garden will be used as an outdoor classroom for the school. The 7th grade Life Science classes will use the garden as part of their unit on monarch butterflies, as well as in the study of classification, animals and animal behavior, plants, and ecology. The garden will also be utilized by 8th grade North Dakota Studies classes as many of the plants in the garden are native to North Dakota. The Schroeder Art classes will use the garden as inspiration for their art work and will also continue the work of the Summer Art class and make more stepping stones for the garden. Schroeder English classes will also be able to make use of the garden as a place of inspiration for their writing. The Butterfly Garden will truly be an educational resource for the entire school.

COMMUNITY USES OF THE GARDEN

The location of the Butterfly Garden on 32nd Avenue South makes it a perfect place for the surrounding community to enjoy. Residents of the area can come and sit on the benches surrounding the garden and enjoy the plants and the animals that inhabit the garden. Parents can come to teach their children about the insects that visit the garden. The garden is a perfect spot to visit on the way to or from the Kelly Playground which is utilized by many of the residents of the area. It is also a lovely area to just sit and enjoy a good book on any fine day.

Some plants that attract butterflies include: amthmis, arabis, asters, aubrieta, bee balm, butterfly weed, daisy, catmint, phlox, primrose, purple coneflower, sedum spectablie, boneset, black-eyed Susan, blazing star, milk weed, yarrow, wild bergamot, and dogbane.

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