

# Conservation

in Kyle Parks and Natural Areas

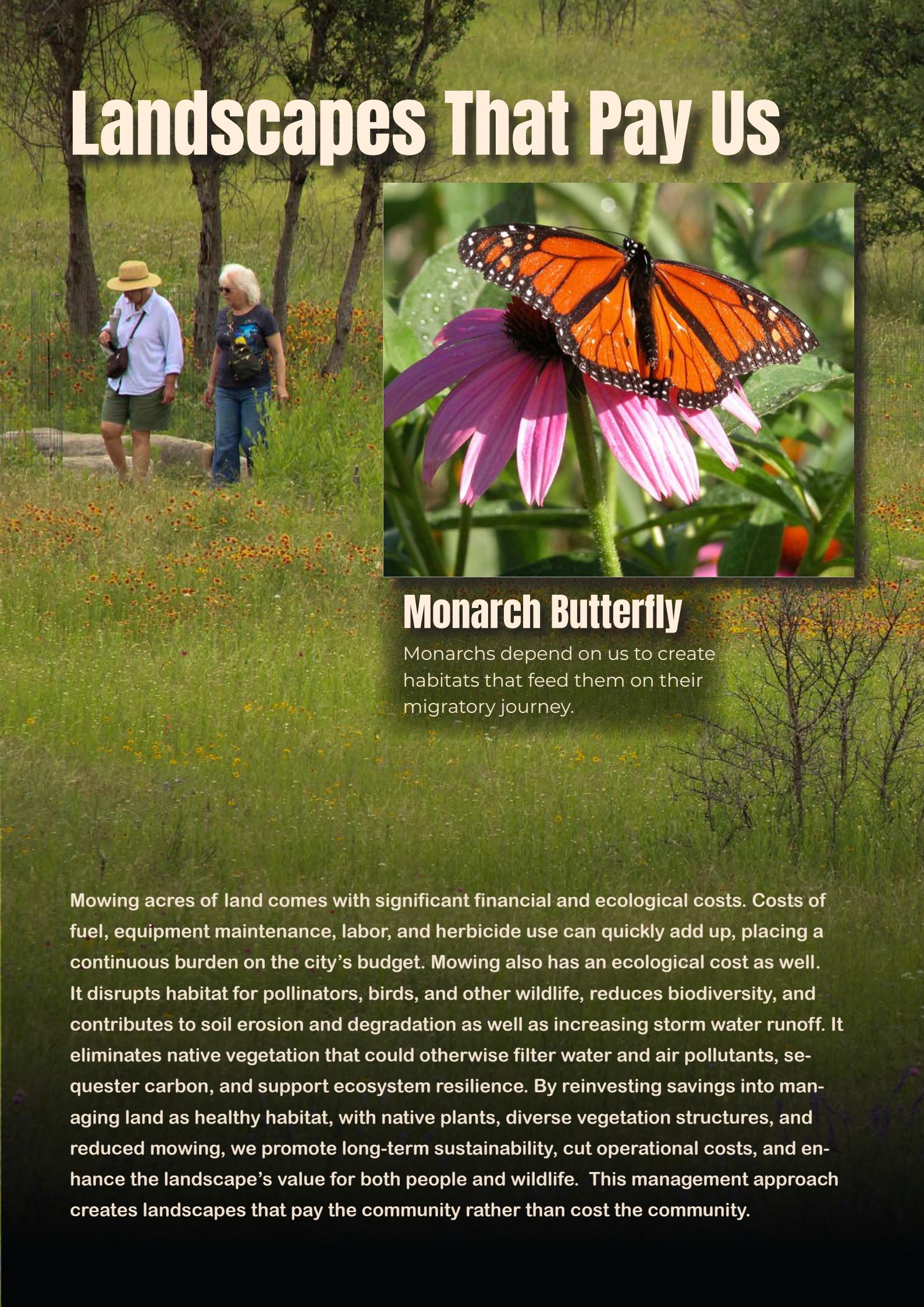




# What is conservation?

Conservation of natural resources refers to the responsible and sustainable management of our city's natural assets, such as water, soil, air, plants, and animals, to ensure their health and availability for future generations. This approach involves using resources wisely to maintain ecological balance and to preserve and enhance the ecosystem services and benefits that natural habitats offer us, including clean air and water, fertile soil, biodiversity, and climate regulation. Beyond these essential services, healthy natural areas also provide profound emotional and psychological benefits, such as reduced stress, improved mood, and greater mental clarity. Physical health is supported through cleaner environments and opportunities for outdoor activity. Moreover, access to natural spaces strengthens communities by fostering social connection, cultural identity, and a shared sense of stewardship. Conservation is not just about benefiting nature, it is also about enriching human life and ensuring resilient, thriving communities.

# Landscapes That Pay Us



## Monarch Butterfly

Monarchs depend on us to create habitats that feed them on their migratory journey.

Mowing acres of land comes with significant financial and ecological costs. Costs of fuel, equipment maintenance, labor, and herbicide use can quickly add up, placing a continuous burden on the city's budget. Mowing also has an ecological cost as well. It disrupts habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, reduces biodiversity, and contributes to soil erosion and degradation as well as increasing storm water runoff. It eliminates native vegetation that could otherwise filter water and air pollutants, sequester carbon, and support ecosystem resilience. By reinvesting savings into managing land as healthy habitat, with native plants, diverse vegetation structures, and reduced mowing, we promote long-term sustainability, cut operational costs, and enhance the landscape's value for both people and wildlife. This management approach creates landscapes that pay the community rather than cost the community.

# Benefits to Residents

## **Scenic Beauty and Seasonal Interest**

Natural areas showcase a dynamic display of native wildflowers, grasses, and foliage that change seasonally for a more visually engaging landscape than uniform turf.

## **Opportunities for Nature Photography and Observation**

Residents will have more chances to enjoy and photograph local plants and wildlife

## **Boosted Pollination for Home Gardens and Yards**

Native bees are excellent pollinators supporting the health and productivity of nearby gardens and flowering plants. They are typically non-aggressive and come in a wide range of sizes and vibrant colors.

## **Reduced Noise and Air Pollution**

Less mowing means quieter neighborhoods and lower emissions from gas-powered equipment. This creates a peaceful environment and improves air quality.

## **More Resilient, Drought-Tolerant Landscapes**

Native plants, adapted to Central Texas, need less water, fertilizer, and upkeep making them ideal for drought, extreme heat, and reducing wildfire risk.

## **Enhanced Nature and Educational Opportunities**

Natural areas provide informal learning spaces where children and families can explore and observe local ecosystems. This helps foster a stronger connection to nature and environmental awareness.

## **Increased Privacy and Natural Buffers**

Taller native vegetation provides a natural sound and visual buffer, offering greater privacy for homeowners without the need for fences or artificial screens.

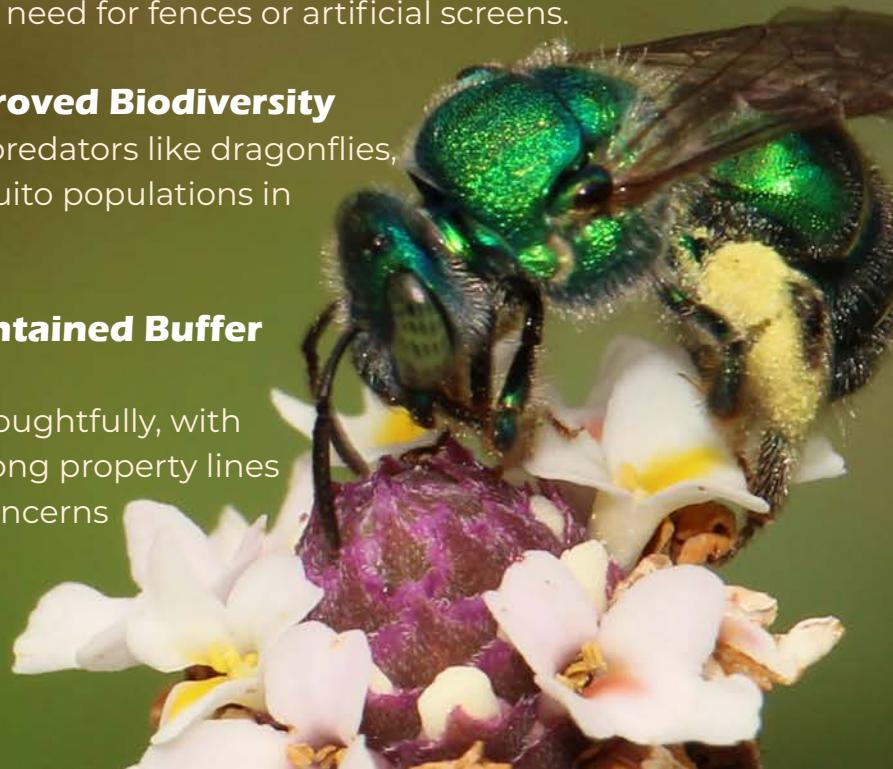
## **Mosquito Control through Improved Biodiversity**

A richer native ecosystem supports predators like dragonflies, birds, and bats that help keep mosquito populations in check.

## **Managed Transitions with Maintained Buffer Zones**

Mowing patterns will be adjusted thoughtfully, with regularly maintained buffer strips along property lines to provide a tidy edge and reduce concerns about encroachment or pests.

(Metallic Sweat Bee on Frogfruit)



# A Healthier Path

By managing nature wisely, we cut costs, lower pollution, and grow healthier, more vibrant landscapes. These spaces boost pollinators, clean our air and water, reduce noise, and add seasonal beauty. They also support wildlife, offer quiet retreats, and even help with privacy and mosquito control.

*Healthy land  
means healthier communities.*



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