**Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.**

~ Nathaniel Hawthorne

**About the NJSEA:** The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority is the planning and zoning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, comprised of parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties. In February 2015, the former New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) was consolidated into the NJSEA.

Nature programming: In collaboration with the Bergen County Audubon Society, the NJSEA offers free twice monthly nature walks and additional special events. For a complete schedule, go to njmeadowlands.gov and click on “Events.” The Sports Authority also offers guided pontoon boat tours and canoe trips of the Hackensack River.

The Meadowlands Nature Blog: meadowblog.net, includes daily updates and great photography of the region flora and fauna, environmental-themed news and information about NJSEA public programs.

Created in 1969, the NJMC (now NJSEA) has fought to end illegal dumping and encourage appropriate development in the Meadowlands District, and has helped to protect thousands of acres of wetlands and open space. The agency has also developed or contributed to the design of 21 parks throughout the District.

**Come and Explore the New Jersey Meadowlands!**

**About the Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz Butterfly Garden**

This garden was built to honor the memory of Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz, a Rutherford resident and the youngest member of the flight crew assigned to TWA Flight 800, which crashed into the ocean off Long Island on July 17, 1996. Jill’s Garden was designed as a teaching garden, a living classroom where students can observe butterflies in late spring and summer. As a functioning butterfly garden, the colorful flowers and plants provide food and cover for butterfly larvae and adults. At its center is a hand-carved limestone fountain shaped like a sunflower, Jill’s favorite.

**About DeKorte Park:**

Featuring 3.5 miles of walking trails, panoramic views and birds galore, this one-square-mile park is the center of New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority nature activities.

The park includes the NJSEA’s Center for Environmental and Scientific Education which hosts school groups, the William D. McDowell Observatory open free to the public, our Administrative Offices, and the Meadowlands Environment Center, which offers hands-on educational programs for adults and children.

**Other Butterfly Hotspots:**

Other great areas in DeKorte Park for viewing these delicate winged marvels include the butterfly bushes by the Meadowlands Environment Center, the flowers at the WTC Memorial Cove and the Butterfly Garden near the AMVETS Carillon on nearby Disposal Road.
Butterfly Basics

With their delicate and symmetrical wings, butterflies are the goodwill ambassadors of the insect kingdom. They don’t bite, sting or buzz, and most are colorful and easy to see.

People associate these captivating insects with a beautiful summer’s day, and for good reason: Butterflies, flowers and sunshine just seem to go together. If you see a butterfly, chances are you’re in a pretty good place – a spot that is sunny and warm, with blossoming flowers nearby. Small wonder that butterflies might just be the world’s most popular bugs.

The butterfly’s life cycle is amazing: egg, larva (caterpillar), chrysalis and butterfly. Butterflies typically lay their eggs on specific types of plants, which serve as food sources after the eggs become caterpillars – that’s why creating and maintaining the right habitat is crucial to attracting these enchanting insects. Butterfly life spans range from a week or two up to eight or nine months, depending on species. Some butterfly species migrate, others do not.

Butterflies are related to moths, with major differences. Butterflies’ antennae are knobbed on the end, and they have thin bodies, while moths tend to be plump. Also, butterflies are seen during the day; moths tend to fly at night.

For more information on Butterflies:
North American Butterfly Association: www.naba.org
Butterflies Through Binoculars - The East, by Jeffrey Glassberg
Butterflies of the East Coast, by Rick Czech and Guy Tudor
Butterflies of New Jersey, by Michael Gochfeld and Joanna Burger

Note: Special thanks to the North Jersey Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association for their help on this brochure.