

Washington Butterfly Association Survey of Evan's Creek Preserve Spring and Summer, 2023

WBA survey participants: Melanie Weiss, Vicki and Mike Elledge, Carolyn Heberlein, Liz Kuehn, Paulette Murphy, Kim Kendall

WA Butterfly Association volunteers conducted nine surveys throughout the 2023 spring and summer season. Surveys were conducted mid day, two to four weeks apart. Sunny days were selected for the visits providing optimal conditions for sightings. Three to four volunteers were present on most visits, with separate individuals surveying different areas of the preserve. Below are the nine species of butterflies that were detected, along with a few host plants. We have also listed three moths that were seen. Butterfly diversity and abundance may vary from day to day due to temperature, cloud cover, wind or other factors.

This lovely preserve offers a lush forested hillside with abundant mosses and lichen, several wetlands, and meadows. Habitat restoration is underway to replace invasive species with native plants. Blackberry brambles are extensive. As native plants are added to this beautiful preserve, butterfly diversity and abundance should increase.

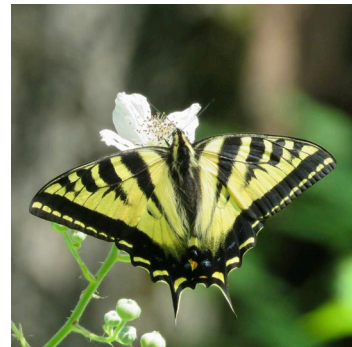
To aid visitors in identifying species and spur interest, one suggestion would be to provide signage at the entrance area with photos of the species seen along with flight times.. An excel spreadsheet has been provided with the dates on which the species were observed. We would be glad to provide good quality species photos any signage if you like.

Let's discuss a possible tabling event during your spring festival. Now that we know what species are present, we would have more to talk about for those who stop at the table.

9 Butterfly species observed:

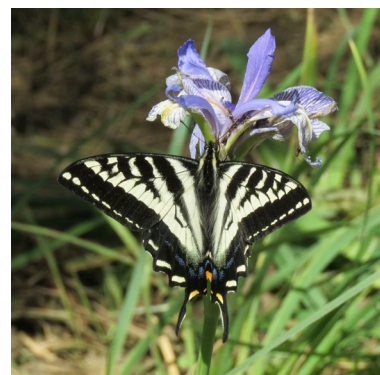
Western Tiger Swallowtail, *Pterourus rutulus*

Foodplants: Quaking aspen, Black cottonwood, numerous Willows, Bigleaf maple, Western chokecherry, and others



Pale Swallowtail, *Pterourus eurymedon*

Foodplants: Red alder, Mountain alder, Saskatoon serviceberry, Ocean spray, Bittercherry, Deerbrush, Cascara buckthorn, and others



Cabbage White, *Pieris rapae*

Foodplants: Wintercress, numerous Mustards, Garden nasturtium



Margined White, *Pieris marginalis*

Foodplants: Hairy Bittercress, Angled Bittercress, Brewer's Bittercress and others.



Echo Azure, *Celastrina echo*

Foodplants: Mountain balm, Snowbush, Oceanspray, Spiraea, Bearberry, Kinnikinnick, Pacific dogwood, Red-osier dogwood, others possible



Lorquin's Admirals, *Limenitis lorquini*

Foodplants: Aspen, Black Cottonwood, Willow species, Ocean Spray, Saskatoon Serviceberry, Rose spirea

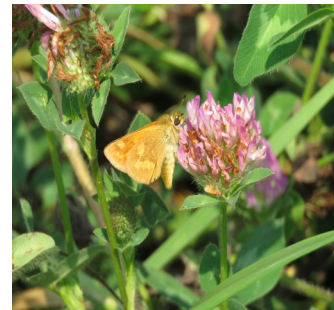


Mourning Cloak, *Nymphalis antiopa* Foodplants: Numerous Willow species, Balsam Poplar, Quaking Aspen



Polygonia species, too distant for a firm ID
We believe both Satyr Comma or Hoary Comma could fly in the preserve. Host plants for each are present.

Woodland Skipper, *Ochlodes sylvanoides*
Foodplants: Various grasses including Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Bearded Wheatgrass, Colonial Bentgrass, Common Wild Oat



Day-flying Moths observed:

White-ribboned Carpet Moth, *Mesoleuca gratulata*



Silver-spotted Tiger Moth, *Lophocampa argentata* (larva was present)



Isabella Tiger Moth, *Pyrrharctia isabella* (Banded Woolly Bear larva was present)



Photo credits: Margined White & Echo Azure, Liz Kuehn. All others, Melanie Weiss.