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### Mëkëke (Meadow)

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# Mëkëke

## MEADOW

The *mëkëke* feeds pollinators like *amëweyok* (bees), *memekasàk* (butterflies) and *lelèmpëlisàk* (hummingbirds), which in turn help the wildflowers reproduce.



*Butterfly Milkweed*



# Memekas nehë nawlachi

*Butterfly milkweed* is one of the only plants on which Monarch butterflies will lay their eggs and the only food source for the baby caterpillars.

Traditionally, Lenape gather the soft woody stalks of *memekas nehë nawlachi*, *anakànàskw* (rush), and *ahpawiàk* (cattail) in the spring for weaving fishing nets and sitting mats. *Lënii kwshatay* (woodland tobacco) is offered before gathering plants for medicine, food, craft, or ritual.

Monarch Butterflies are often seen in the Gordon Natural Area *mëkëke*. However, because of habitat loss and the effects of climate change, Monarchs are now listed as being globally endangered.

**Lenape words are in Unami, the dialect associated with this area of Lënapëhòkink**

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE



amëweyok



memekasàk



lelèmpëlisàk



anakànàskw



ahpawiàk



lënii kwshatay

## COLLABORATING TRIBAL NATIONS



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