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East Side Recycling Center Scavenger Hunt

Use these pictures and descriptions to locate and identify just a few of the plant species that can be found at the East Side Recycling Center.

- A. ANISE HYSOP—The leaves and tiny lavender-blue flowers of anise hyssop smell and taste of anise, but its square stems and opposite leaves tell you it belongs to the mint family. The leaves look a bit like catnip, another mint-family member, but larger.
- B. GRAY-HEADED CONEFLOWER—A slender, hairy-stemmed plant bearing flower heads with drooping, yellow rays surrounding a roundish, grayish central disk darkening to brown as rays drop off.
- C. BLACK AND GOLD GARDEN SPIDER—This nonpoisonous spider is easily identifiable by its distinctive gold and black coloring found on the abdomen. Their legs are marked by alternating bands of orange and black, though this pattern varies from spider to spider. Their webs are typical of other Orbweaver spiders: their webs spiral out from the center.
- D. BUCKEYE BUTTERFLY—This butterfly can be identified by the bold pattern of eyespots and white bars on the surface of its upper wings. These eyespots help startle or distract predators, such as young birds. Common buckeyes are seasonally polyphonic; their hindwings turn from brown or tan in summer to rose-red in the fall.
- E. BUTTERFLY BUSH—Butterfly bush are identifiable by their long panicles of colorful flowers, ranging from very dark purple to pink to pure white, and for their ability to attract butterflies and other beneficial insects.
- F. MILKWEED SEED POD—The fruit of common milkweed are green pods which turn brown before bursting open to let out fluffy seeds. More buoyant than cork, the fluffy silk threads attached to the seeds were used in place of down in aviation lifejackets during WWII.
- G. MONARCH BUTTERFLY— Perhaps the most familiar North American butterfly, monarch butterfly wings feature an easily recognizable black, orange, and white pattern, with a wingspan of 3.5 to 4 inches. Eastern North American monarchs are notable for their annual migrations between the United States/southern Canada and Mexico. Due to a variety of threats, the population of monarch butterflies has experienced a ten-fold drop over the last decade.
- H. MONARCH CATERPILLAR—Monarch caterpillars emerge from their eggs pale green and translucent and begin feeding on milkweed. Over time, the larva loses its translucence as it begins to develop its characteristic pattern of white, yellow and black transverse bands. Pairs of black tentacles, called stink horns, grow out on both sides of the caterpillar.
- I. PURPLE CONEFLOWER—Known by its Latin name *Echinacea purpurea*, the purple coneflower is a coarse, rough-hairy perennial that is native to the prairies, meadows and open woods of the central and southeastern United States. It typically grows 2-4 feet tall, with daisy-like purple coneflowers that bloom throughout summer.
- J. PURPLE MARTIN HOUSE--Purple martins, the largest North American swallows, are known for their aerial acrobatics and can be seen diving into their housing from the sky at great speeds with their wings tucked. These birds suffered a severe population crash in the 20th century widely linked to the release of European starlings in North America. The population of east purple martins is dependent on artificial martin houses, often in the form of fake plastic gourds.
- K. SNEEZEWEED—Common sneezeweed is a perennial plant in the daisy or aster family. Its abundant yellow blooms can be found in late summer to fall, often attracting bees and butterflies. Rub the flower between your fingers—it smells like bubblegum.
- L. WHITE CABBAGE BUTTERFLY—The white cabbage butterfly is often the first butterfly to appear at the beginning of summer. Often affectionately called the summer snowflake, the adults can be identified by their white wings with one or two dark spots.

