

Vital Sign: Butterflies

[shortened name: Butterflies] deferred

Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:

BICY, BISC, BUIS, DRTO, EVER, SARI, VIIS – Deferred due to insufficient funds.

Justification/Issues being addressed: Butterflies ranked 40th among the 44 SFCN vital signs.

Butterflies are a good indicator because they are important pollinators that reflect changes in plant communities, have strong species specific ties between caterpillars and host plants along with the butterfly and nectar plants. Butterflies can also indicate impacts from pesticide use. Schaus Swallowtail (*Papilio aristodemus ponceanus*) is a Federal endangered species and the Miami blue butterfly (*Hermiargus thomasi benthunebakeri*) is a candidate for Federal listing. Butterfly information could be useful in directing park based mosquito control activities in areas of rare butterflies.

General Monitoring Questions to be Addressed by the Vital Sign:

- What are the status and trends in abundance and distribution of butterflies?

Measures:

Population abundance, distribution, abundance and distribution of host plants & nectaring plants

Basic Approach:

Project is deferred due to insufficient funds.

Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS lead:

N/A

Development Schedule, Budget, and Expected Interim Products:

N/A