



GO

Driftwood Community Church Natural Area gives you a look into the past and the future in the heart of Driftwood. A hiking trail circles the Preserve, where you can see the signs of degradation but also restoration. In the past, trees were cut down for crops and cattle grazing. Today the land is being restored by the community to create a natural area for native plants and grasses, a butterfly waystation, and a birdviewing station.



KNOW

Butterflies



- Butterfly watching is a fun hobby for Texans. Many different kinds of butterflies migrate through our state in the spring and fall.
- One of the most beautiful migrating butterflies is the Monarch. It is a large butterfly with 2 sets of orange-red wings. The wings have black borders with white spots.
- Monarchs migrate more than 1,000 miles north for the summer. They return south, where it's warmer, for the winter.
- All butterflies need native plants with lots of **nectar** (a sugary liquid). The nectar gives them energy to grow and migrate. Driftwood Community Church Natural Area has native milkweed, which gives Monarchs food, shelter, and a place to lay their eggs.

GROW

Reflect on Nature

Three things that I have learned about nature in this book are...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Can you predict how this land may look in 10 years? What plants might be growing here? What animals might be living here? Which animals might be migrating through here? _____

On page 23, fill in the picture with your ideas about what the Natural Area could become.

Ashe Juniper—So Misunderstood!

Scientists are learning new things about Ashe juniper. They don't just make you sneeze! Ashe juniper is one of the first native trees to grow back on degraded land. Junipers help the soil. Their roots keep soil from eroding or washing away. Junipers help restore the land to a healthy state. Can you find the young juniper trees at Driftwood Community Church Natural Area?

Hint: They are green, bushy, and round.



