NEWS RELEASE

# And butterflies are free to fly

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Team members at Tech Ops – Tulsa recently created a monarch butterfly waystation on the north end of the maintenance base. Each fall, monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to areas in Mexico and California, where they live until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. Tulsa is right along this migratory path.

Monarch waystations are places that provide resources like milkweed and nectar necessary for the butterflies to eat and reproduce. Milkweed and nectar sources are declining due to the widespread use of herbicides. Without a major effort to restore milkweed along the butterflies' migratory path, the species' survival is at risk. The Environmental Engineering team in Tulsa led the project and teamed up with the non-profit Sustainable Tulsa as

well as the Living Green Employee Business Resource Group. All the plants used are native to Oklahoma to ensure the sustainability of the waystation.

“A project like the monarch waystation is an excellent way of initiating a larger conversation about environmental stewardship at every level,” said Audra Liggenstoffer, senior environmental engineer, Tech Ops – Tulsa. “Although a butterfly garden may not come to mind when thinking of an aircraft maintenance base, the response and attendance by our team members was absolutely inspiring. It shows that this awareness is taking off and indicates a growing desire for a company’s environmental responsibility, not just from our customers, but also from our team members.”