

## Wetland Butterfly Garden



With the expansion of a campus parking lot, it gave the opportunity to install a new garden space. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural resources require management of stormwater runoff into the water shed system. Bio-retention cells located around parking lots help to filter this flow. The addition of plants helps to slow velocity, filter, and remove contaminants from the water. Water fills the basin and slowly dissipates over a 24-hour period. Located on the north end of the McMichael Parking lot is a bio-retention cell that also serves as the Wetland Butterfly Garden.

Most bio-retention cells are simply built to serve a function and do not provide much aesthetics. However, this dual-purpose cell provides function and beauty with the addition of numerous plants. The challenge with growing plants in this type of environment is selecting plants that can withstand dry conditions and also fully saturated soil. The plants selected for this garden do both, as well as serve as a habitat for butterflies. Many of the plants flower making food for the butterflies.