Every year, over 25,000 monarch butterflies overwinter in Pacific Grove!

Pacific Grove is home to the Monarch Grove Sanctuary, located between Lighthouse Avenue and Short Street (See map on reverse). Arriving in October, the Monarch Butterflies cluster together on the pines and eucalyptus trees of the Sanctuary. Their migration to Pacific Grove is so unique and inspiring that Pacific Grove is nicknamed "Butterfly Town, U.S.A." The community has always welcomed the butterflies and sought for their protection. Citizens of Pacific Grove voted to create an additional tax to create the Monarch Grove Sanctuary, led by dedicated volunteers.

Title 12 (Trees and Vegetation) of the City’s Municipal Code includes regulations on the protection of the Monarch Butterfly Habitats:

12.20.040 Monarch butterfly habitats – Protected.
(c) Pruning or Removal of Monarch butterfly habitat Trees shall be prohibited except as prescribed in the approved Monarch sanctuary habitat management plan or upon a finding by the city council that such is necessary for proper maintenance of the site or for public health, safety, or welfare.

(d) Pruning or Removal of Trees within 100 yards of any boundary of a Monarch sanctuary shall be prohibited during the months of October through April unless deemed necessary by the city arborist and confirmed by the public works director for public health, safety, or welfare. Any Person aggrieved by or objecting to any exercise of authority by the public works director under this section shall have the right of appeal to the city council in accordance with Chapter 12.70 PGMC. [Ord. 13-013 § 3, 2013; Ord. 12-017 § 6, 2012]

What does it mean if my property is part of or adjacent to the monarch butterfly habitat?

Refer to parts (b) and (c) of PGMC §12.20.040 above regarding limitations on tree removal and pruning that could affect your property.

How do I know if my property is part of or adjacent to the monarch butterfly habitat?

Refer to the reverse side for a map of the City of Pacific Grove Monarch Butterfly Habitat