



SANTA CLARA VALLEY  
HABITAT AGENCY

## **Big Effort to Save a Little Butterfly: Once-Common Bay Checkerspot Given Boost From Devoted Team of Biologists, Nature Lovers**

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By Jane Kay

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For the past few springs, people have flocked to the popular Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve in the hills above Redwood City to admire the wildflowers. But they haven't seen a single bay checkerspot butterfly, once a vibrant presence in the rolling serpentine-rock grasslands. On Thursday, a small band of biologists and park lovers hiked into the preserve, carrying a precious cargo that they hope will return the red-and-black butterfly to its home. They gently lifted hundreds of plump, inch-long black, bristly caterpillars from a cooler and placed them on the ground among their favorite food, the plantain, a native plant. By April, they hope, the caterpillars will transform into butterflies and begin to populate part of the 467-acre park.

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