



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Mesa and Mayor John Giles Signs National Wildlife Federation's "Mayors' Monarch Pledge" to Help Save the Monarch Butterfly

Mesa, AZ – Mayor John Giles, on behalf of the City of Mesa, has again signed the National Wildlife Federation's [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#), committing to help save the declining [monarch butterfly](#) and other pollinators. City of Mesa continues to be a part of an expanding North American [network](#) of cities working to create habitat in public parks, public landscaping, vacant lots, roadsides, medians, green roofs, backyard gardens, and open spaces throughout the community.

"It's an honor for me to support this initiative from the National Wildlife Federation and to join hundreds of other mayors in this effort," said Mesa Mayor John Giles. "Monarchs and other pollinators have a very important role to play in supporting our environment, and I hope Mesa residents will join me in the commitment to support and enhance monarch habitat in our community."

The City of Mesa has been fortunate to work with [Southwest Monarch Study](#), a nonprofit researching the migration and breeding patterns of monarch butterflies in Arizona and the Southwestern United States. Through their efforts, we know that there is much more to learn about the wild monarch migration throughout our region.

Found across the United States, monarch butterflies numbered around 1 billion in 1996. Today, their numbers have declined significantly because of numerous threats, particularly the loss of habitat due to cropland conversion, urban development, and agricultural practices. Degradation of wintering habitat in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the species.

By again taking the pledge, the City has reaffirmed its commitment to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community.

A good example is the [Monarch Haven & Reading Sanctuary](#), which was made possible by a grant from Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community, staff from the Engineering, Environmental & Sustainability Division, the Mesa Parks & Recreation Department, and Mesa Public Library. This pocket park, located in the NE corner of the Red Mountain Library parking lot, was created not only for monarchs and other butterflies, but for our community members as a contemplative place to read, learn, and enjoy nature. The desert landscape is planted with butterfly-friendly foliage and the park includes informational signs and places to sit and enjoy a book. The space also features a walking labyrinth for outdoor meditation.

On Saturday, March 19, 10 am to 2 pm, Red Mountain Library will hold a celebration of the Spring Equinox in the Monarch Garden. This family-friendly event will feature crafts, a human sundial, as well as exhibitors from Southwest Monarch Study, the Desert Botanical Garden, and the City of Mesa Environmental and Sustainability Division.

For more information about the event, visit <https://events.mesalibrary.org/event/spring-equinox-monarch-garden>.