City of Harker Heights

Harker Heights, TX

Mayor Spencer H. Smith

Pledge Summary

Harker Heights is a City in Central Texas with a population of roughly 34,000. The city is home to many who are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces due to its proximity to Fort Hood, one the largest Army installations in the world. Mayor Spencer H. Smith of Harker Heights, TX has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michael Blomquist	2026	3/10/2026	
Mayor Michael Blomquist	2025	3/14/2025	Signatories
Mayor Michael Blomquist	2024	4/20/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Spencer Smith	2023	1/6/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Spencer H. Smith	2022	1/18/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Spencer H. Smith	2021	12/7/2020	Leadership Circle

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

200

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0.” (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

80 adults 120 youth

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Back of one of our buildings, as well a portion at one of our Community Gardens

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

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We made sure our Monarch Geocache program was implemented in parks in marginalized areas.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

By helping protect local wildlife and the Monarch Butterfly as well as assist in the beautification of the community.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Information on how to implement demonstration gardens and toolkits.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We have been working with our Master Gardener's and Native Plant Society to plant more native plants and provide education about the importance of using native plants

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

August Garden Education Series .jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Monarch Geocache 22.pdf

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Our Master Gardener's held a class on The Monarch Butterfly and in that class spoke about what the public can do to help. The spoke about what kind of plants work well in our area, and how to plant them and where to buy plants. We used printed flyers, print media,

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and social media . In addition to this we launched a Monarch Geocache Program across the community with educational information at each location.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

We encourage our Community Garden renters to attend our Garden Education classes and plant native milkweeds and nectar producing plants in the open areas of the gardens. As a part of the policies for maintaining a plot at our garden renters must sign that they will not use harmful chemicals and will help us in planting pollinator friendly plants.

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

1/25/22

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayors Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge 2022 Proclamation.pdf

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

1 City Parks and Recreation

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

We extended our pocket prairie, and by doing this we added to our no mow area of our park.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The Master Gardeners provided a free class on pollinator plants and conservation efforts. The Native Plant Society has assisted in implementing a demonstration garden

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Texas Master Naturalists and Master Gardener's

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

100

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

As apart of our Outdoor & Science Expo we had large Monarch Butterfly wings that people were able to take photos with. With this, there was hand out information for kids and adults on the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and pollinating plants. Participants were also able to make their own monarch butterfly eye mask and bracelet.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

400 Indian Trail Harker Heights TX 7548 The garden is located at the back of our Public Library and Activities Center. It is a heavily trafficked building. We are also close to interstate 35, where a lot of the Monarchs travel through.

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What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Native Plant Society of Central Texas

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

flyer2.pdf

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

50

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

350

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Master Gardeners and Texas Master Naturalists both assisted with the plant and seed swap

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

signage for garden.jpg

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

NativeFlowers_Kern.jpg

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

signange for garden2.jpg

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

The Native Plant Society of Central Texas Tonkawa Chapter, and 1 on own.

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

12

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We planted 6 milkweeds at the back of Library/ Activities Center. The photos shows a ID sign for Antelope Horn Milkweed. We have flags where the milkweed are to alert the public of the extra sensitivity of the area.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

HHPRD 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.pdf

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

We worked with our Parks Advisory Board in order to create our 21-24 Strategic Plan. Our Parks Strategic Plan is a supplemental document to our Parks Master Plan.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

2/2/2021

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Did not complete

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Did not complete

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