# City of Harker Heights

Harker Heights, TX

Mayor Spencer Smith

## Pledge Summary

The City of Harker Heights is in Central Texas with a population roughly of 34,000. The city is close to the Interstate 35 corridor that follows the Monarch's migration each year. Being in the path of the Monarch Migration, Mayor Spencer H. Smith of Harker Heights has invested in creating a pocket prairie, native pollinator gardens, and providing education that engages the community to help protect the Monarch Butterfly.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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.).**

100

**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.)**

60 adults 40 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.**

1

**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.**

We created a pollinator habitat in a common area between by our City Hall

**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 provide free educational classes, demonstration gardens are accessible to all

**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

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

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

monarch garden unveiling.png

**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)**

305 Millers Crossing, Harker Heights, TX 76548

**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.**

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1

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

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

Native Plant Society

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

10

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

At the new garden by our City Hall we planted 10 nectar producing plants We planted Blackland prairie mix of wildflower seeds native to our area at one of our community gardens.

## 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:**

1/24/23

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

Mayors Monarch Pledge 2023 Proclamation.docx

## 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.**

Expo_Class Schedule.jpg

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

As a part of our Outdoor and Science Expo our local Native Plant Society held a class open to the public and all ages on the importance and on how to grow Native Pollinator plants

## 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.

## 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 created a pollinator garden in a open space that is located by our City Hall

## 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.

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

September GES.jpg

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

Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners

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

We worked with our Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners to provide 2 separate free educational classes on the importance of using native pollinator plants. In each class the importance was tied to the monarch butterfly

## 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?**

none

**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).**

50

**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).**

In our Maker Space we had a ongoing monarch butterfly crafting area that provided educational material that they could take home after they created the craft.

## 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.**

HHOutdoor and Science Expo_PRINT.pdf

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

30

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

200

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

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Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society both had seeds for the event

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

**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.**

not available

## Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

**How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

2

**Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).**

We ordered metal signs from the monarch joint venture website. The educational signs provide information on planting milkweed and why plant native plants

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

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

none

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

not available

**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.**

not available

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

not available

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