City of Harker Heights

Harker Heights, TX

Mayor Michael Blomquist

Pledge Summary

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

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- 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.

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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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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.).

150

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.)

50

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.

0

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.

outside public buildings

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

We started the renovation process of our community garden in a low-income neighborhood

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

Understanding the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and our cities proximity to its migration.

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?

Programming and event ideas

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

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We have added regular workdays with the Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society to better upkeep the gardens

Selected Action Items

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:

2/13/2025

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge 2025 Proclamation.pdf

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.

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

2. Native Plant Society of Central Texas and Master Naturalists of Central Texas.

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

We work with the Native Plant Society and Master Naturalists throughout the year to cleanup, weed, and maintain our 2 native pollinator gardens.

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.

Expo flyer .jpg

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

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20

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?

Native Plant Society, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Killen Garden Club, Girl Scouts, Youth Volunteer Corps, Cen Tex Sustainable Communities, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and more

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)

This garden is located next to our city hall

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

Native Plant Society and Master Naturalists

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

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.

Earth Day 2025.jpg

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

Target and a local real estate group

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

14

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

For Earth Day we added 14 additional native pollinator plants to our pre existing pollinator garden.

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)

4

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

Bought new cedar posts for our pre-existing aluminum signs.
https://store.monarchjointventure.org/products/habitat-signs

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