# City of Alamo

Alamo, TX

Mayor Diana Martinez

## Pledge Summary

The City of Alamo (Alamo) is a municipal government which is a Home Ruled City. This gives the city full power of local self - government, with a Mayor & four commissioners, including the right to amend their adopted City Charter, as provided by the Constitution & laws of the State. Alamo was incorporated in 1924, and it was named for the Alamo Land and Sugar Company. It is located within 7 miles of the Texas-Mexico border (boundaries being right by the river) and is also one of the Rio Grande Valley's gateways to Mexico. Alamo is part of the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission metropolitan area and is also called the "Refuge to the Valley" since traveling through Alamo will take you straight to the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. It is a favorite of birdwatchers from all regions of the world and is nicknamed the "Land of Two Summers", as Winter Texans and other visitor's total approximately 34,000 per year. The mission statement for the city was adopted on March 1, 2011 and is: Known as the "Refuge to the Valley", the City of Alamo is a haven dedicated to providing sustainable, reputable, superior services for all.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### 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 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and

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pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Diana Martinez | 2023 | 4/27/2023 | |
| Mayor Diana Martinez | 2022 | 5/18/2022 | Signatories |
| Mayor Diana Martinez | 2021 | 3/22/2021 | Signatories |

## 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.).**

35

**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.)**

35 ages 0-18 (school aged at our youth center)

**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.**

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It will be developed at our new TPWD grant at Gus Guerra Elementary park project. Construction on new park will begin in Spring 2022

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

Through our youth center and through our social media outlets, we are targeting Alamo residents.

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

Alamo partnered with the World Butterfly Center for a butterfly grant where Alamo created 7 different butterfly gardens within the city. As well as working with our UPS Volunteer program who have developed a butterfly garden at our youth center, the Alamo Commission has been committed to help the monarch population increase. Alamo is proud to be a Monarch Butterfly partner.

**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?**

All the resources available are awesome and have assisted our youth center provide monarch butterfly lessons and instruction.

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

Alamo is trying to get back to some normalcy after the pandemic year, so this last year, there have been no new developments for our butterfly conservation efforts.

## 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:**

March 22, 2021

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

"Mayors" Monarch Pledge Day in the City of Alamo

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

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## 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.**

WP_20151007_015.jpg

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

Through our partnership with PSJA ISD, the monarch butterfly project is highlighted. This picture is a principal and the district environmentalist who work with our maintenance staff on the appropriate maintenance of the city gardens. The city has also promoted these butterfly gardens through the local chamber and AEDC.

## 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.**

Currently, the city of Alamo partners with PSJA ISD and Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge for our monarch project. As we are still getting back to normal, after pandemic, we will be reaching out to the other school districts within our city: Van Guard Academy, IDEA Schools, Donna ISD and Valley Christian heritage.

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

PSJA provided the city maintenance staff the proper education of the butterfly garden plants for proper maintenance. With the winter freeze, we did loose some of our garden plants and we will be replanting them in the spring.

## 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.**

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None this past year, but will try and engage them this upcoming year.

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

None this past year, but will try and engage them this upcoming year.

## 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)**

We have one demonstration garden in front of the public library, one at a local day care, one at a local housing authority, one at our youth center and one at our sports complex. These areas where chosen as they get alot of community traffic that will help with our outreach education.

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

We partners with a local day care, IKIDS Academy and Alamo Housing Authority for this project.

**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.**

1

## Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

No new program was launched, continuation of the current one. With pandemic, not much was done for our efforts.

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**How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

5

**Please list the names of the schools you are working with.**

Marcia Garza Elementary, Santos Livas Elementary, McKeever Elementary, Gus Guerra Elementary and Farias Elementary.

**What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?**

none at this moment, as PSJA is a partner, they provide the lessons.

**How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).**

10 educators and roughly 325 students

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

PSJA ISD

**How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.**

2

**What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?**

as needed is the schedule for now.

## Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

**How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).**

3

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

Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge staff

**Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.**

Not sure, Santa Ana Wildlife provides the information.

## 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)**

3

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

All 5 gardens had signage, but two have been lost. Will need to update all signage at our gardens.

## Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

0

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

In progress

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

Due to the pandemic, Alamo did minimal on this project this past year. Will get back on track in 2022.

## Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

0

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

IN progress

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

Due to pandemic, all activities slowed down. Alamo hopes to get back on track in 2022

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