City of Alamo

Alamo, TX

Mayor Diana Martinez

Pledge Summary

The City of Alamo (Alamo) was incorporated in 1924 and is a municipal government which is a Home Ruled city. This gives the city full power of local self- government, including the right to amend their adopted City Charter, as provided by the Constitution & laws of the State. Alamo was named for the Alamo Land and Sugar Company that is located within 7 miles of the Texas-Mexico border and serves as one of the Rio Grande Valley's gateways to Mexico. Alamo has been nicknamed the "Land of Two Summers", as Winter Texans and other visitor's total 34,000 per year. Every winter, an estimated 20,000 Winter Texans live up to eight months in the City of Alamo. The City of Alamo 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. The city has been a grant recipient with the World Butterfly Center located in Mission, Texas for the establishment of butterfly gardens throughout the city. Through this grant award we able to plant 7 gardens (library, day care center, housing authority, 1 city parks, youth center, 2 elementary schools) and get staff trained on the appropriate maintenance of these gardens. The city is continuously working with Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge on the expansion and appropriate upkeep of these gardens. The city is in the process of creating 4 more butterfly gardens at city parks and expanding 3 current ones.

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.
- 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.

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

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 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.).

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.)

Ages 0-18 147 youth and 3 adults

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.

It will be developed at our new TPWD grant at Gus Guerra Elementary park project. Construction on a new park will begin this quarter.

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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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 due to change is program staff this past year, there has not been a wide variety of new developments for our butterfly conservation efforts.

Selected Action Items

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.

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, we reached out to the other school districts within our city: Van Guard Academy, IDEA Schools, Donna ISD and Valley Christian heritage.

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.

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image0.jpeg

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

image1.jpeg

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 currently have 5 demonstration gardens and they are located at our public library, local day care, the housing authority, Alamo's youth center and lastly, one at our sports complex. These areas where chosen since there is an abundance amount 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

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

garden plaque.jpg

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 have the proper signage.

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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?

Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge staff

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

in progress due to change in project management.

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.

in progress due to change in project management.

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

In progress due to change in project management. Our tentative completion date is the end of this quarter.

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.

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

IMG_2313.jpg

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

IMG_2312.jpg

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

IMG_2315 (002).jpg

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

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We are currently in the planning phase to adopt a local mowing ordinance to keep the project viable.

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

Once the ordinance is adopted we will engage in community partnerships, education, and implementation for proper maintenance.

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:

May 3, 2022

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

Monarch Day in Alamo

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022 Monarch proclamation.jpg

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)

A program was launched to collaborate with the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge.

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.

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

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

PSJA provides the resources via student 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).

For this project phase, 147 youth center participants and 3 adults from the Alamo Youth Center made signage for the proper identification of the Monarch Butterfly gardens.

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?

Quarterly inspected.

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