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 visitors 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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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.).

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.)

180 Student youths were reached, and 20 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.

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.

1 Public Library, 3 parks in Alamo, 2 Daycares, 4 schools in Alamo

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

The city of Alamo is predominantly made of Mexican American citizens, our reach comes heavily through our schools and libraries. By using our schools and and municipal buildings, the City of Alamo is always engaging Mexican American youths and adults alike.

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

The city of Alamo has strong working relationship with Santa Ana Wild Life Refuge, as it is located in the city of Alamo. In response we as a community pride ourselves in creating

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gardens that will assist Monarch Butterflies in their migration south and Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge is a large area them to thrive. The City of Alamo hopes by educating and creating more Monarch Gardens, it can help continue to bring the Monarchs to our city.

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?

In recent years the City of Alamo has had a strong working relationship with its schools, by engaging our students we have been able to build gardens and educate students on the importance of our environment. The City of Alamo did have some trouble receiving milkweed plants this year, a plant that has helped us create these gardens in the past. In the future the cites hopes to create new gardens every year but would need these plants to do so..

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

Though the city was not able to plant new gardens this year, we used the time to educate our students on the importance of our environment. Through our Planning and Public Works Departments, the city was able to reach out 5 different schools, reeducating and raising awareness about our Monarch Butterflies and the gardens built in the past here in The City of Alamo.

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:

May 2, 2023

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.

2023 Proclamation.docx

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

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

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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)

At our Library at 416 N Tower Rd, Alamo TX 78516, we have Monarch Butterfly Garden on display as you walk in, this helps us to raise awareness to our city of the importance of the Monarch in our community.

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

We had a student (Boys Scouts of America) from the city of Alamo build this garden 2 years ago and the city has maintained it since.

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.

0.1

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)

1

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

the signage is located in the Garden at the Library. The sign describes the garden, it also includes partnerships, storm water group and the Laguna Madre.

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 of Alamo Parks Staff 2 Boys scouts of America

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

Supervision and planting.

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?

At our Library at 416 N Tower Rd, Alamo TX 78516, we have Monarch Butterfly Garden on display as you walk in, this helps us to raise awareness to our city of the importance of the Monarch in our community.

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

in progress

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