City of South Padre Island

South Padre Island, TX

Mayor Patrick McNulty

Pledge Summary

The city of South Padre Island is 4 miles long on a barrier island along the Monarch's coastal flyway. The City of SPI with the help of community members have joined forces to help make the city a waystation for Monarchs in migration.

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 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

- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Patrick McNulty	2024	4/30/2024	
Mayor Patrick McNulty	2023	3/31/2023	
Mayor Patrick McNulty	2022	3/12/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Patrick McNulty	2021	3/23/2021	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.)

75 youth and 125 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.

.5

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.

City Parks, Residential yards, and at the SPI Birding Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary.

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

By having a Monarch Migration Celebration Day "HalloWings" with free admission at the SPI Birding Nature Center & Alligator Sanctuary

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

We see a great amount of migratory Monarchs migrating down our coastline in the fall and we have observed how they have benefited from our Monarch Waystations. We feel like we

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

are helping the migration each year!

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?

We haven't been utilizing any new resources, we have mainly stuck with the resources that we have created, but we hope to expand and use outside resources into the future.

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

We have figured out a good yearly routine in our gardening and habitat creation that helps migratory Monarchs, especially as they migrate through the island in the fall season.

Selected Action Items

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.

The SPI Birding Nature Center and the local RGV Texas Master Naturalists work closely together to create habitat, maintain habitat, and educate the community about Monarchs during our annual "HalloWings Monarch Migration Celebration" in October.

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

These groups work closely with one another to plant and maintain native gardens for Monarchs and pollinators at the SPI Birding and Nature Center.

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.

IMG_8064.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

IMG_8065.jpg

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

IMG_8067.jpg

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

IMG_8070.jpg

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)

The City of SPI manages a Monarch Waystation garden at a beach access crosswalk. The garden holds a cultural significance at this location by demonstrating how coastal habitat is important to migratory Monarchs on the coastal flyway. There is a large statue of a Monarch Butterfly at the center of the garden with the Monarch Waystation plaque below it. The park is located at (26.11711 N, 97.16625 W)

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

This is an effort of the City of SPI Parks and Rec Committee and City of SPI Public Works.

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.

.25

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

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

City Master Plan.pdf

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

The City of SPI and The SPI Birding Nature Center

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Complete

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.

March 2nd 2022

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.

IMG_4668.jpg

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

Coastal Nature Camp.jpg

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

habitat planting 2.jpg

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

Habitat planting.jpg

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

habitat work.jpg

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

spring fest.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

IMG_2464.JPG

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

IMG_7598 (1).jpg

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

IMG_7600 (1).jpg

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

IMG_7603 (1).jpg

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

IMG_7414.jpg

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

IMG_2464.JPG

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

IMG_7598 (1).jpg

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

The City of South Padre Island works closely with the SPI Birding Nature Center and the local RGV Texas Master Naturalists to create and maintain habitats for Monarchs and other pollinators.

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

80

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Under the direction of the City of SPI Parks & Recreation and the SPI Birding Center, volunteer planting days were organized and scheduled. Community members of all ages

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

were invited to participate. We planted native plants that have been proven to grow well under the salty and windy conditions of South Padre Island. We planted native Berlandier's Fiddlewood, Texas Lantana, Seaside Goldenrod, Betony-leaf Misflower, Crucita, Texas Wild Olive, Mexican Trixis and others. We have found out that these nectar plants are local favorites to Monarchs, particularly during fall migration.

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:

October 22nd 2016

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Birding Center manager with Mayor Patel and proclamation.JPG

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

IMG_9280.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Birding Center manager with Mayor Patel and proclamation.JPG

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

City and Birding Center Staff with Mayor Patel and proclamation.JPG

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor Patel reading proclamation during Monarch Day.JPG

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Copy of IMG-6333.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Copy of IMG-6336.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_1483.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_1491.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_1494.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_1497.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_7894.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_7899.jpg

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

Copy_of_IMG_7901.jpg

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

Monarch Festival.jpg

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

only), e.g. 500)

450

What was the date of your festival?

October 29th 2022

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

SPI Birding Nature Center and RGV Texas Master Naturalists

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

This year our "HalloWings" Monarch Migration Celebration was FREE for the first time to all community members! We had Monarch ecology education tables that thought about Monarch lifecycle, ecology, migration, and conservation. We also hosted a native plant sale, a butterfly walk, a costume contest, and had entertainment by local musicians and artists. This has become a well-established yearly event that a lot of the community looks forward to every year.

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.

Copy_of_IMG_7899.jpg

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

IMG_4912.jpg

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

IMG_4953.jpg

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

80 sold - Combined total between the SPI Birding Nature Center's Earth Day Festival and during The "HalloWings" Monarch Migration Festival in October.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

500

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

The events are hosted by the SPI Birding Nature Center and assisted by the RGV Texas Master Naturalists.

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_8064.jpg

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

IMG_8065.jpg

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

IMG_8067.jpg

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

IMG_8070.jpg

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

Habitat lot application.pdf

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

IMG_9298.jpg

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

IMG_9296.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

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

IMG_9293.jpg

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

IMG_9290.jpg

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

The City of SPI has a "Native Habitat Lot" ordinance that owners of vacant lots can apply for. If the lot passes requirements (lot must have a dune, wetland, or be comprised of mainly native plant, or hold "Monarch Habitat"), it is protected from mowing. Quite a few of these lots hold native nectar plants and Zizotes Milkweed. See attached Native Habitat lot application. The City of SPI Parks and Rec along with the Public Works Department have manages a City Monarch Waystation. Plants are supplemented yearly to ensure adequate habitat at the right time of year, which for us is mainly fall migration.

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

Parks and Recreation Committee allots part of their budget to buy native plants each year to supplement the city's Monarch Waystation.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

IMG_9300.jpg

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

IMG_9289.jpg

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

IMG_9287.jpg

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

IMG_9299.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

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).

The City Monarch Waystation showcases a big Monarch sculpture as a centerpiece and presents its certified Monach Waystation sign underneath. A sign depicting the butterfly lifecycle is also on display. The SPI Birding Center has a large wooden Monach at the entrance way to the visitor center where visitors can take a photo as a Monarch. The Monach is also right next to the birding center's Monarch Waystation and its respective signage.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Mainly picking invasive grasses from planting beds at the start of every season, and mainly by hand. Guinea Grass and Bermuda grasses being the main invasives that we deal with. Most of these actions are done by volunteers at the SPI Birding Center. The City of SPI Public Works crew also does seasonal removal of grasses and weeds from city parks and the City Monarch Waystation.

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

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

IMG_7605.jpg

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

IMG_7604.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]

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

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

RGV Texas Master Naturalists

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

This year a RGV Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer actively tagged Monarchs throughout the fall migration. She was able to tag 93 Monarchs during the fall migration from October to November. She tagged 53 at the SPI Birding Center and the rest at city parks and gardens.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u493:v1.14.0.49966]