City of Mesa

Mesa, AZ

Mayor John Giles

Pledge Summary

The City of Mesa is a part of a large metropolitan area in Arizona that is located in the beautiful desert Southwest. Mesa has been fortunate to be able to work with Southwest Monarch Study, a nonprofit researching the migration and breeding patterns of monarch butterflies in Arizona and the Southwestern U. S. Through their efforts, we know that there is much more to learn about the wild monarch migration throughout our region. With a size of 138 square miles and a population of over 500,000 residents, it just makes sense that we can and should be mindful of ways to enhance habitat for these and other pollinators and to encourage our greater community to do the same. It is an honor for me to support this initiative from the National Wildlife Federation and to join hundreds of other mayors in this effort.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Mark Freeman	2026	3/5/2026	
Mayor Mark Freeman	2025	2/6/2025	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2024	3/5/2024	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2023	3/30/2023	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2022	2/15/2022	Signatories
Mayor John Giles	2021	4/12/2021	Signatories

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Action Items

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.

1.97

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

City's desire to replace lost habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators.

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?

Working with SW Monarch Study has been extremely valuable for us as they have provided workshops, education and expertise that we would not be able to provide ourselves. I have not yet established our areas as Waystations and just need some time and assistance for that. Currently, we have had difficulty getting desert milkweed plants because there is such a high demand.

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.).

60

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.

Library grounds, community garden, police station grounds

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

At events we give away Monarch Butterfly puppet cutouts that promote SW Monarch Study

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 youth 20 adults

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

Being our first year, we're just getting started.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

We have quarterly meetings with all of our departments that oversee landscape areas. That includes engineering, facilities, parks and transportation. We encourage the use of our desert milkweed native at any opportunity when designing or renovating any landscapes. We have a unique landscape surrounding our Fiesta Police Department. There are hundreds of milkweeds at this site. Because contract maintenance crews are difficult to keep educated, info tags have been attached to many of the milkweeds that describe BMP maintenance like not pruning or blowing.

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

Milkweedplanttag.jpg

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

Milkweedplanttag2.jpg

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

SW Monarch Study, Mesa Library patrons, Mesa Community College

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)

At our Red Mountain Library. It is part of the landscaping on the east side of the parking lot property. It is located at 635 N. Power Road.

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

SW Monarch Study, Mesa Library, and we called out to the surrounding neighborhoods and to Master Gardeners to volunteer.

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

Signs at Red Mountain Library.JPG

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

Monarch Haven Entry Sign.JPG

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.

.86

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

Desert Milkweed Mesa MUG.JPG

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

pl_Desert Milkweed.jpg

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

This is tough to estimate as it is planted throughout the city, but I would put a guess of about 6 acres.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Depending on location plants are maintained as needed.

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Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

At 212 E 1st Avenue, in front of our Mesa Urban Garden we have them planted in our rain garden. Otherwise, they are planted in many other locations throughout the city.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

40

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)

7

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

1. Welcome sign at the Monarch Garden and Reading Sanctuary at Red Mountain Library 2. Monarchs at Risk sign at Red Mountain Library explains the concern about Monarch populations and what can be planted as food or pollinator/nectar plants. 3. Monarch sign explains how to find books on the topic inside the library 4. Monarch Life Cycle sign, shows the different stages 5. Monarch Life Cycle sign from SW Monarch Study is printed and located at our Mesa Urban Garden 6. Which Butterfly is That sign from SW Monarch Study that shows the difference between a Monarch & Queen 7. Monarch Waystation sign from NWF at MUG

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

Monarch Haven Entry Sign.JPG

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

Monarch Sign at Mesa Urban Garden.JPG

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Signs at Red Mountain Library.JPG

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Monarch Signs at MUG.JPG

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

Monarch Waystation at MUG.JPG

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

65

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

Master Gardeners, Mesa Library. We had a workshop presented by SW Monarch Study, the following Saturday, we offered tours of the garden and gave plants away.

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

FB Post regarding Milkweed.png

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

Milkweed Seedling.jpg

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

Milkweed Seedlings 2.jpg

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

Milkweed Event 3-6-2021 Carlos.JPG

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

Milkweed Event 3-6-2021 Origami.JPG

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

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Milkweed Event 3-6-2021 Stephanie.JPG

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

Milkweed Event 3-6-2021.JPG

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

20

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