City of San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Pledge Summary

The City of San Antonio, Texas is the 7th largest city in the United States. Uniquely situated along the monarch butterfly migration routes, San Antonio has proudly been part of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge since 2015. In 2016, San Antonio was declared the first Monarch Champion City by the National Wildlife Federation after becoming the first city in America to adopt all Champion City action items. With support from the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, the City of San Antonio is committed to saving the monarch butterfly by establishing more monarch-friendly habitat across the city and through education and outreach efforts promoting the importance of this incredible pollinator. Together with our local stakeholders and regional partners, San Antonio remains dedicated to monarch and pollinator conservation.

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 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.
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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- 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).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 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

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- 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 Ron Nirenberg	2025	2/17/2025	Monarch Champions
Mayor Ron Nirenberg	2024	2/2/2024	Monarch Champions
Mayor Ron Nirenberg	2023	2/8/2023	Monarch Champions
Mayor Ron Nirenberg	2022	1/28/2022	Monarch Champions
Mayor Ron Nirenberg	2021	4/15/2021	Monarch Champions

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.).

10000

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.)

3000

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

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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.

Parks, trail systems, trailheads, community gardens, culturally significant locations, roadsides, private residences, municipal buildings

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 San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department was granted approval in 2021 to hire one (1) new Education Coordinator for the southside of San Antonio to engage in nature-based programming in some of San Antonio's traditionally marginalized and low-income areas. Part of this education and outreach will involve Monarch and pollinator education.

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

San Antonio is a major waystation on the migratory path of the Monarch butterfly. Raising awareness and increasing habitat for the Monarch and other pollinators is critical to their survival.

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?

Our local Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative is a collection of local nature-based and conservation minded organizations who share information and ideas with each other during monthly meetings. The resources provided to the collaborative by all of the partner organizations and agencies is invaluable and critical to our success.

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

We will continue to promote Monarch awareness and education and will continue to do what we can to protect this vital species.

Selected Action Items

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

COSA Parks and Recreation, Green Spaces Alliance, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation, Consulate of Canada in Texas, Consulate of Mexico in San Antonio

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

1000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The City of San Antonio has planted approximately 1,065 nectar producing plants in public community gardens and parks in City Natural Areas to promote monarch and pollinator habitat. Additionally, the COSA Parks and Recreation Department planted or adopted out over 7,000 trees in FY21, many of which

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were pollinator friendly. The San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio River Foundation partnered with the Consulate of Canada in Texas and the Consulate of Mexico in San Antonio to establish and open the North American Friendship Garden at Confluence Park in June of 2021. The garden area is approximately 2,500 square feet and includes native grasses, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs.

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.

Approximately 20 acres in total

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.

The City of San Antonio works diligently to remove invasive herbaceous and woody species on Park Natural Areas. Restored areas are seeded and planted with native pollinator species to restore habitat. Approximately 16 acres of woody and herbaceous invasive species were treated, removing an estimated 6,990 invasive woody plants (including giant mustard). The SA River Authority continued invasive species management efforts within designated areas including the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project during 2021. TPWD is one of the main sponsors of the TX Master Naturalist Program. The local Alamo Area Master Naturalist chapter has an active "Salsa Squad Invasive Tree & Plant Removal/Balcones Invaders" Team (https://www.facebook.com/BalconesInvaders/). They met to identify and eradicate invasive plants in parks, preserves & natural areas in the Greater San Antonio region.

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?

City of San Antonio

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.

Monarch conservation is included in and emphasized in the following City of San Antonio plans: 2016 City of San Antonio SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan (https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Sustainability/SATomorrowSustainabilityPlan.pdf); the 2019 SA Climate Ready Plan (https://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/Sustainability/SAClimateReady/SACRReportOctober2019.pdf); and the 2019-2029 SA Parks System Plan (https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/News-Events/SAParksSystemPlan)

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

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communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

Texas Butterfly Ranch, based in San Antonio, engages in social media outreach and newsletters to promote their efforts to encourage residents to plant monarch and pollinator friendly vegetation at home and work. More information, including previous articles and posts, can be found at their website: https://texasbutterflyranch.com/articles/ Additionally, staff from City of San Antonio (COSA) Parks and Recreation Dept. has engaged in multiple efforts to raise awareness in the greater San Antonio area about the importance of monarch and pollinator friendly gardens, such as this Park Bench episode on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnUvWpo3gA8 Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) provided 6 "Urban Wildlife/Wildscaping" hour-long programs to San Antonio urban audiences which includes a "Champion City" logo on the title slide and is mentioned along w/ how they can support monarch/pollinators using native plants to create habitat benefiting all wildlife. TPWD updated and provided last year's pollinator resource handout to NWF for their East Texas 2-day NWF "Gardening for Monarchs & Other Wildlife with Native Plants in Texas" Train-the-Trainer workshop this year. TPWD uses Social Media to share wildlife-plant-habitat information w/followers that benefits pollinators too (https://www.facebook.com/saurbanwildlife). TPWD Urban office created a YouTube video on "How to Help Monarch Butterflies" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92HAtwycWgA) that was posted this year onto our TPWD YouTube Channel to provide info to the public. TPWD offered Technical Guidance to 8 landowners (city & rural) on enhancing their properties with habitat for wildlife, that also included pollinator info. TPWD offered a Landowner Wildlife Tax Valuation Workshop that informed 45 landowners on how to manage their land to benefit (all) wildlife.

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.

The San Antonio Zoo hosts an annual native plant sale/milkweed seed giveaway. Green Spaces Alliance, a local San Antonio land trust, has over 30 regional community gardens—meet w/ them to discuss incorporating MW & Nectar plantings. They have partnered with COSA Parks and Recreation for funding opportunities to expand into new areas of San Antonio, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to explore new ways to incorporate milkweed and nectar-producing plants in existing and future community gardens. The Cibolo Center for Conservation conducts Seed Giveaways and Native Milkweed Sales at April/Oct Monarch Fests and Plant Sales. The SA River Authority engaged with community garden groups by providing an in-person presentation promoting nectar plants for pollinators at The International Community Garden on 6/13/21 for the Green Spaces Alliance Community Garden Program. TPWD worked w/Texas Master Naturalist volunteers from the Alamo Area Chapter to offer guidance & assist during workdays to enhance & maintain this garden. Also conducted a follow-up site visit to the Toyota Visitor Center's Wildscape Demo Garden. TPWD also presented to two (2) Native Plant Society groups on creating native habitat for a variety of wildlife which also included pollinator information (which benefits Monarchs too).

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.

COSA Parks and Wildlife Cibolo Nature Center Texas Parks and Wildlife San Antonio River Foundation

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

Mowing practices for the establishment and maintenance of milkweed and/or native nectar-producing and pollinator friendly plants have been implemented in several City of San Antonio Parks, including Phil Hardberger Park, Friedrich Wilderness Park, Mahncke Park, Cibolo Nature Center, Confluence Park, and Crownridge Canyon Natural Area. No-mow areas in these and other park locations have been established and are monitored during certain seasons to allow for plant growth for butterfly and pollinator migration. TPWD worked with US Corps of Engineer & other local stakeholders to review projects w/city representation in S.A. & Leon Valley that looked at two riparian projects at "River Road near Ave A" and "Huebner Creek near Raymond Rimkus Park". Suggested native forb plantings and reduced mowing to allow these expansive corridors, dry most of the year, to serve as pollinator habitat during dry conditions. Unfortunately, the Huebner Creek project was cancelled since it was determined that mitigation efforts would not improve conditions at that site at this time

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.

Alamo Area Master Naturalists Bexar Audubon Society COSA Parks and Recreation Department Native Plant Society of Texas San Antonio Botanical Garden San Antonio River Authority (SARA) San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Texas Agrilife Extension Program

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

COSA Parks and Recreation has an agreement with the Alamo Area Master Naturalists AAMN organization to support the establishment and maintenance of a native plant and wildflower demonstration garden at Phil Hardberger Park. TPWD helps toward this goal as well, engaging with local AAMN leaders to focus on monarch and pollinator friendly plants. COSA Parks and Recreation and Bexar Audubon have both signed on as supporters of the establishment of San Antonio as a BIRD CITY through TPWD. This state-issued designation, adopted via resolution by the City of San Antonio on December 3, 2020, will result in regional conservation efforts that will also protect monarch and other pollinator friendly habitat. The SA River Authority provided in-person educational offerings supporting Monarch conservation for: 1) the Alamo Area Master Naturalist Program at Confluence Park on 10/12/21 , and 2) the AgriLife Extension Master Gardener Program at the San Antonio Botanical Garden on 11/10/21; and virtual educational offerings: 1) live virtual How To Garden With Nature presentation including Q&A on 3/12/21 for SAWS Spring Bloom, 2) live virtual Gardening for Monarchs and Other Wildlife Using Native Plants in Texas presentations including Q&A on 9/14/21 for the National Wildlife Federation Monarch Steward Certification Program, 3) live broadcast including Q&A on 6/26/21 for the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas Watersaver Landscape Tour, and 4) live virtual Rain Gardens for Wildlife & Water Quality presentation including Q&A on 3/12/21 for the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

COSA Parks and Recreation Green Spaces Alliance Mahncke Park Neighborhood Association Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas San Antonio River Authority San Antonio River Foundation Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

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

COSA Parks and Recreation and San Antonio River Authority staff have identified specific areas of San Antonio in both public and privately-owned spaces, that are suitable for monarch garden establishment and maintenance. These areas include Confluence Park, Phil Hardberger Park, Mahncke Park, and multiple trailhead locations along the Linear Greenway Trail systems and the San Antonio River. Education and outreach efforts to work directly and indirectly with local neighborhood association groups and individual neighbors have been conducted to help raise awareness of the important of monarch and pollinator habitat, and to help them understand best management practices for these areas. For example, COSA Parks and Recreation has worked directly with residents in the Mahncke Park Neighborhood to explain why certain areas of the park are not mowed during certain seasons to allow for native wildflowers and pollinator-friendly species to grow. Additionally, the San Antonio have conducted outreach with residents in the nearby Englewood district to educate them about the establishment of the North American Friendship Garden, a monarch-friendly pollinator garden established in the park in June of 2021 that is designed to provide a sanctuary for Monarch Butterflies during their international migration, as well as crucial habitat for myriad other pollinators and migratory species. TPWD provided one (1) neighborhood program on "Urban Wildlife" which included Monarch/Pollinator info & habitat needs. TPWD has also conducted nine (9) city park visits to assess overall habitat conditions for a variety of wildlife, including pollinators, to benefit not only wildlife, but also visitors. Many of the parks were in underserved areas to look at Diversity & Inclusion of the sites.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The Cibolo Center for Conservation Partnered with Agave to remove Neo-tropical and Tropical Milkweed from their planting plans and replace them with native nectar and milkweeds. The San Antonio River Authority engages with developers, planners, and landscape architects on creating Monarch habitat as part of the San Antonio River Authority and Bexar County Low Impact Development Credential Course Program which promotes native plants for vegetated on-site stormwater best management practices.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

In October 2021, the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative partners engaged in a month's worth of outreach, activities, events and festivals to promote awareness and increase understanding about Monarch butterflies and pollinators in general. Citywide and regional activities included guided tours, online seminars, classroom activities, and more, and culminated in the annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival, hosted by the Texas Butterfly Ranch and the San Antonio River Foundation held at Confluence Park on October 16, 2021. More information is available via this link: https://texasbutterflyranch.com/2021/09/07/get-your-wings-on-for-2021s-month-long-monarch-butterfly-and-pollinator-festival/

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

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COSA Parks and Recreation Department, COSA Department of Arts and Culture, San Antonio Mayor's office, District 8 City Council office, artist Leticia Huerta

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

20

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Radiant, oversized flowers representing native flora including Antelope Horn Milkweed, red Cedar Sage and others were installed at the new Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trailhead at Eisenhower Park on San Antonio's north side to call attention to the importance and beauty of native wildflowers in the region. A collaborative effort by COSA Parks and Recreation and the COSA Department of Arts and Culture, and designed by local San Antonio artist Leticia Huerta, the "Bloom" sculptures officially opened to the public at a ribbon cutting for the trailhead on November 16, 2021. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and District 8 Council member Manny Palaez were on hand to welcome the new trailhead and public art sculpture into being.

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

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

Over 7,000 trees and native plants were given away in 2021 by various organizations

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

7000

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

San Antonio Zoo, COSA Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Chapter-Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation, Texas Butterfly Ranch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

50

What species were collected or propagated?

Native milkweed species and milkweed seeds

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

Native Plant Society of Texas, Cibolo Center for Conservation

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

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With the help of the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society , the Cibolo Center for Conservation is collecting and propogating local species of milkweed for sale at plant sales and replanting in our demonstration gardens and wildscapes. The SA Chapter-Native Plant Society of Texas supported milkweed seed collection that will be used in a native plant propogation class scheduled for Spring 2022.

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)

The City of San Antonio maintains several flower beds at the newly renovated City Hall which include some milkweed and native nectar plants; the San Antonio River Authority and the River Foundation established the North American Friendship Garden at Confluence Park under partnership with the Mexican and Canadian consulates; the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas team maintain 5 pollinator demonstration gardens at prominent public parks to promote native monarch and pollinator friendly landscaping

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

City of San Antonio, Texas Parks and Wildlife, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation

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.

0.5

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Phil Hardberger Park - Voelcker Trailhead, 1021 Voelcker Lane, San Antonio, TX 78248

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

COSA Parks and Recreation Department, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

0.5

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

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A half-acre parking lot and construction yard located at Phil Hardberger Park was restored to a prairie ecosystem in 2021. Over 167 grasses and 13 pounds of wildflower seeds were spread to establish monarch and pollinator friendly habitat.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Bexar Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, City of San Antonio

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

On February 10, 2021, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department designated San Antonio as a Bird City Texas Community

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

25

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

Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, Cibolo Center for Conservation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

When did this challenge take place?

Ongoing

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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

Please describe your challenge and the results.

TPWD is exploring ways to get subdivisions to work together to create habitat for pollinators and birds. The Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative submitted a grant to get stickers to promote our Pollinator Protector Sticker Program for a neighborhood challenge. Results of the grant application are still pending.

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

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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).

1000

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

Cibolo Center for Conservation, North American Butterfly Association, San Antonio River Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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

The North American Butterfly Association in San Antonio participates yearly in four butterfly surveys/counts - two counts in June and two in October. The Cibolo Center for Conservation trained 34 new volunteers on monarch health, and isl currently running monthly MLMP studies at the Cibolo Nature Center and Herff Farm. Additionally, Cibolo trained 68 new volunteers how to use Journey North materials, and hosted a teacher workshop with November 6, 2021 and trained the teachers on how to use Moanrch Health materials. The SA River Authority trained individuals on the use of iNaturalist as a way to participate in citizen science data collection on nature including Monarchs as part of the Watershed Wise Citizen Scientist Program and in-person at the River Symposium held on 9/25/21 at Confluence Park. The River Authority also hosted four (4) iNaturalist project bioblitz events for citizen science data collection during January, April, May, and October. TPWD promoted the annual City Nature Challenge, where cities around the world compete to see who can make the most observations (Citizen Science) of nature (native plants & wildlife), find the most species, and engage the most people during the challenge. The use of iNaturalist allows valuable data to also highlight the natural resources that are being found in each city providing a baseline survey & an annual snapshot of some of the valuable habitat available in each participating city. Twenty-four local partners actively participated in our planning meeting, engaged members & the public through social media during the 4-day Challenge held at the end of April. Despite raining 3 out of the 4 day event, we still managed to increase our numbers and had a total of 15,271 observations by 762 observers resulting in 2,168 different species being posted. This gives insight to conditions in our cities which can help make decisions that will benefit wildlife, like 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.

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 only), e.g. 500)

2500

What was the date of your festival?

October 16, 2021

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

Texas Butterfly Ranch, San Antonio River Foundation, Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, City of San Antonio, San Antonio River Authority, Native Plant Society of Texas - SA Chapter

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,

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location).

The Texas Butterfly Ranch and the San Antonio River Foundation hosted the annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival event on October 16, 2021 at Confluence Park. The Native Plant Society of Texas supported the event by providing an educational booth focused on local native plants. The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept. supported the Monarch Festival by handing out 50 milkweed plants and approximately 80 native wildflower seed packets to festival goers, and by offering a nearby free tree giveaway distributing 250 native trees to the public. In addition, a Parks and Recreation Education Specialist hosted a table providing education and activity to the visiting public. The SA River Authority sponsored native plant giveaways at two Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival events: 10/8/21 at Legacy Park and 10/16/21 at Confluence Park. TPWD and other Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative (AAMC) partners supported the annual October Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival by advertising the event through social media. Some partners did participate at the event and/or created events at their sites during October to offer additional public engagement related to pollinators. Additionally, TPWD and other AAMC partners promoted monarch awareness throughout the month of October 2021 with various activities, seminars and events.

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)

5

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

A permanent educational sign depicting the monarch life cycle and migration facts was installed at Eisenhower Park in 2021. Permanent educational signage is displayed at two SA River Authority office facilities in downtown SA and in projects including the San Pedro Creek Culture Park and Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project. TPWD created and shared plant signage placed in public gardens. The signs highlight plant features & the wildlife attracted to them. These plant signs have been used at Native Plant Demonstration Gardens at Phil Hardberger Park and the Toyota Plant Visitor Center. Additional plant signs have been created by Alamo Area Master Naturalist volunteers for new plantings this past year for the Phil Hardberger Park Demo Garden.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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.

TPWD has received and reviewed a Recreation Grant proposal for Dan Markson Park, a new park in the City's Parks and recreation inventory. Recommendations made to City staff included habitat improvement

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& reduced lighting conditions to benefit pollinators & other wildlife.

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)

City of San Antonio nature-based education programming

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.

San Antonio Independent School District Northside Independent School District San Antonio Young Women's Leadership Academy The Advanced Learning Academy - Euclid Campus The Advanced Learning Academy - Fox Tech Campus Project Acorn

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

The SA Chapter of the Native Plant Society implemented a pilot grant program with the San Antonio ISD for a series of grants for native gardens at local schools. Additionally, the COSA Parks Department employs Parks staff as well as local volunteers to conduct education and outreach to promote programs that build awareness and encourage greater local participation in monarch and pollinator-friendly habitats. Existing programs include Starting Out Wild, Growing Up Wild, and other nature-themed programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools were reluctant to send students to, and park volunteers were reluctant to host, many events in person in 2021. However, many of the Parks Department's activities held online or at Phil Hardberger Park can be found online at the PHP Conservancy's website here: https://www.philhardbergerpark.org/calendar

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).

N/A at this time

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

Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy; Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas; COSA Parks and Recreation Dept.

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.

0.5

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

In development

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 16, 2021

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Placeholder for information sent by email.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day proclamation.pdf

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

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

Trails and trailhead located along roadsides and within public rights-of-way and utility easements throughout San Antonio's Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trail systems. Additionally, the San Antonio River Authority planted 150 native milkweed plants consisting of local native species within public park areas along the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project.

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

250

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.

Over Five (5) miles of trails; Four (4) new trailheads

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Five (5) miles of trails and four (4) new trailheads were established in various locations along the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trail systems. For more information, please see this COSA Park Bench video, at the 7:12-minute mark: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gwj0HgnVo5c The maintenance schedule for establishment of all plantings was negotiated with the vendor/contractor who installed and will come with a one-year warranty period, during which Parks and SARA staff will monitor.

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