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 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.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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

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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.).

15000

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.)

6000 youth and 9000 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.

6

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, municipal properties, private residences, schools and other academic institutions

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's horticultural team from the Clean & Green Division engaged in broader outreach in 2022 than ever before, both by adopting out native milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants, and by using this expanded outreach to engage and educate the general public in traditionally marginalized and low-income areas.

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.

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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. Having on-the-ground representatives from NWF to play a more active role in this local collaborative would prove even more beneficial and allow us to capture even more data.

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

San Antonio remains committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, both as a municipal corporation and as a community as a whole. 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

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.)

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

Texas Butterfly Ranch, based in San Antonio, in collaboration with Blooming with Birdie, a local science-based interactive mobile education and outreach initiative designed to promote Monarchs and pollinators, engaged in social media outreach and newsletters throughout 2022. These outreach efforts were designed to encourage residents to learn about the importance of monarchs and pollinators, and, by extension, to then plant more monarch and pollinator-friendly vegetation at home and in the community. More information, including previous articles and posts, can be found at their website: https://texasbutterflyranch.com/. Additionally, staff from City of San Antonio (COSA) Parks and Recreation Dept. engaged in multiple efforts to raise awareness in the greater San Antonio area about the importance of monarch and pollinator friendly gardens, conducting a series of educational programs in our Natural Area parks to help young scholars and their parents better understand the importance of pollinator friendly habitats. A sampling of those programs can be seen by visiting the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy calendar of events via this link: https://www.philhardbergerpark.org/calendar. Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) continued to provide their series of local "Urban Wildlife/Wildscaping" programs to San Antonio urban audiences, which included information on how residents can support monarch/pollinators using native plants to create habitat benefiting all wildlife.

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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.

Organizations and groups that partnered with the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department and/or the Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative in 2022 toward the promotion of planting native milkweed and nectar-producing plants include the Glenoaks Garden Club, which is an after-school club that works to improve native plant gardens by planting native milkweed and other native wildflowers for monarchs during their migratory routes, and also educates students about the plight of the monarch butterfly; Green Spaces Alliance, a local land trust that helps maintain over 30 regional community gardens throughout San Antonio; the Cibolo Nature Center, which conducts annual seed giveaway events and native milkweed and plant sales; the San Antonio River Authority, the Alamo Area Master Naturalists and Texas Parks and Wildlife. This year, the Parks and Recreation Department also helped formalize a more consistent partnership with the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) that will allow NPSOT to hold regular meetings at the Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center. These meetings will enable both Parks staff and NPSOT to further promote the benefits of native milkweed 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.

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

COSA Parks and Recreation Department, Cibolo Nature Center, San Antonio River Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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, and Crownridge Canyon Natural Area, as well as along areas of the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trails system. Additionally, no-mow areas have been designated by other local organizations at Confluence Park, Government Canyon State Natural Area, and the Cibolo Nature Center. 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. Additionally, pollinator gardens achieving Certified Waystation status were installed at several City parks in 2022, including Woodlawn Lake Park, Dorie Miller Park, Hemisfair Park and Brackenridge Park.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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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 (AAMN), Bexar County Master Gardeners, Bexar Audubon Society, San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio Botanical Garden, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation, San Antonio Water Systems, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Agrilife Extension Program, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept., Project ACORN.

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

COSA Parks and Recreation has an ongoing 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 continues to help toward this goal as well, engaging with local AAMN leaders to focus on monarch and pollinator friendly plants. In 2022, COSA Parks and Recreation also entered into a new agreement with the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) to hold regular NPSOT meetings at Phil Hardberger Park. NPSOT will, in turn, contribute to the native plant and wildflower demonstration garden and other areas within the park. COSA Parks and Recreation and Bexar Audubon continue to be strong supporters of San Antonio's status as a BIRD CITY through TPWD. This state-issued designation, adopted via resolution by the City of San Antonio on December 3, 2020, has resulted in regional conservation efforts that also protect monarch and other pollinator friendly habitat. COSA Parks and Recreation staff partnered with gardening leaders from AAMN, Bexar County Master Gardeners and NPSOT to support monarch pollinator conservation by presenting to the Garden Club conference in San Antonio in 2022, which consisted of speaking to 250 local garden club members and representatives on the importance of pollinator gardens and distributing 250 native plants to participants. Additionally, Project ACORN, which is a local public school STEM initiative led by local educators, led several efforts to establish monarch butterfly and pollinator gardens at various schools throughout San Antonio, most prominently with the Northside Independent School District at Elrod Elementary School, Northside Alternative Middle School, Mary Lou Fisher Elementary School, Henderson Elementary School, and others. Other local programs that have engaged gardening leaders include Monarch Heroes and EcoRise, which focus on engaging with schools and other local partners to plant native milkweed and to educate the public.

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, Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, Barbara Street Neighborhood Association, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy,

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Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

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 continue to identify 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, Woodlawn Lake Park, Medina River Natural Area, 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 staff worked directly with residents in the both the Woodlawn Lake Neighborhood Association and the Barbara Street Neighborhood Association in 2022 to pass out native plants and pollinator-friendly species. Throughout 2022, COSA Parks and Recreation staff distributed over 3,000 native milkweed plants and over 2,000 native milkweed seed packets to various neighborhood groups and other organizations through education outreach. Additionally, the San Antonio River Foundation continues to manage, maintain and actively promote its American Friendship Garden, a monarch-friendly pollinator garden established in the park in June of 2021, 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 .....

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.

COSA Parks and Recreation staff continue to work closely with the San Antonio River Authority to ensure that monarch butterfly and other pollinator-friendly plant species are included in the design process for future trailhead projects as part of the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway Trail System. Both organizations work closely with developers, planners, landscape architects, etc. to create ways to include more monarch habitat and low-impact development design in and along the trails and specifically at new trailheads, to promote native pollinator-friendly 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.

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In 2022, the Native Plant Society of Texas partnered with Haven for Hope, a recovery center for homeless persons in San Antonio, to educate and explain the benefits of rain garden installation and how they can impact native plant gardens of all sizes. The presentation, which was designed to provide a customer-centric design, reached 140 people, both in person and virtually, to extoll the virtues of native plants, pollinator friendly species, and low impact development. Additionally, the COSA Parks and Recreation staff adopted out 350 native plants and 100 milkweed seed packets at the Japanese Tea Gardens in central San Antonio, as well as the Mission Marquee Drive-in theater on soutside of San Antonio, both in underserved areas with large minority populations.

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 15,000 trees and native plants were given away by the City of San Antonio and its partner organizations in 2022.

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

15000

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

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Zoo, Texas Butterfly Ranch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio River Authority, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, San Antonio Botanical Garden

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

3000

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?

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation, Native Plants Society of Texas, Texas Butterfly Ranch

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

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Throughout 2022, the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department propagated and distributed over 3,000 native milkweed plants and seed packets to various citizens, organizations and other local groups.

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?

COSA Parks and Recreation Department, COSA Department of Arts and Culture, San Antonio Mayor's office, San Antonio City Council, 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).

50

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).

2022 saw the expansion of the City's "Bloom" public art sculpture at various locations around San Antonio. These radiant, oversized flowers representing native flora including Antelope Horn Milkweed, red Cedar Sage and others were installed at the new Brazos Street Pocket Park along the Westside Creeks trail system, Southside Lions Park, and along the Leon Creek Greenway at the Tezel Road facility. The "Bloom" concept was designed by local San Antonio artist Leticia Huerta 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 has allowed the City to erect "Bloom" sculptures at multiple locations around town to showcase Huerta's beautiful work. More information about this public art initiative can be found online at the City's Arts and Culture website: https://www.getcreativesanantonio.com/Public-Art/New-Public-Art#290664048-bloom.

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)

4000

What was the date of your festival?

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October 8, 2022

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

Texas Butterfly Ranch, Blooming with Birdie, Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, City of San Antonio, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, San Antonio Zoo, 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, location).

The Texas Butterfly Ranch and the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department hosted the annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival event on October 8, 2022 in Brackenridge Park near the San Antonio Zoo. 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 hosting the event and handing out approximately 1,700 milkweed plants to festival goers, and by offering a nearby free tree giveaway distributing 400 native, pollinator-friendly trees to the public. In addition, Parks and Recreation Education Coordinators from the department's Natural Areas team hosted a table providing education and activity to the visiting public. Texas Butterfly Ranch hosted a week's worth of supplemental events and activities, all of which were documented and can be viewed online at the Ranch's website: https://texasbutterflyranch.com/. Additionally, TPWD and other Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative partners promoted monarch awareness throughout the month of October 2022 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)

7

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

Permanent educational signage depicting the monarch life cycle and migration facts is located at Eisenhower Park and at two San Antonio 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 both Parks and Recreation staff and Alamo Area Master Naturalist volunteers for native plant gardens at Phil Hardberger Park, Friedrich Wilderness Park and Medina River Natural Area.

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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 Department, 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 received and approved 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 & reduced lighting conditions to benefit pollinators & other wildlife. Construction of Dan Markson Park is still currently underway and is slated to open to the public in 2023.

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://satomorrow.com/); the 2019 SA Climate Ready Action Plan (https://www.sasustainability.com/action-plan); and the 2019-2029 SA Parks System Plan (https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/News-Events/SAParksSystemPlan).

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

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?

Texas Butterfly Ranch

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

In 2018, the Texas Butterfly Ranch kicked off an initiative to connect with citizen scientists and pollinator supporters in San Antonio, throughout Texas, and across the nation to establish 1,000 pollinator habitats. As of December 5, that number stood at 976 pledged habitats and counting. More information is available via the Texas Butterfly Ranch website here: https://texasbutterflyranch.com/2022/12/05/almost-there-pollinator-habitat-initiative-closing-in-on-goal-of-1000-by-years-end/

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 30 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 partners with volunteers and local stakeholder organizations in a continuous effort to remove and control invasive herbaceous and woody species in City Parks and Natural Areas. Restored areas are seeded and planted with native pollinator species to restore habitat. In 2022, approximately 30 acres or woody and herbaceous invasive species were treated in Natural Area parks and other locations, removing species such as Chinaberry, ligustrum, Chinese Tallow, giant mustard, and others. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept (TPWD) continued their efforts toward invasive species mitigation and management in and around San Antonio, along the Mission Reach section of the San Antonio River, and at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Both TPWD and SARA have employed prescribed burn methodologies to help control invasive vegetation and to foster native plant growth in the region. Additionally, the local Alamo Area Master Naturalist chapter continues to operate its "Salsa

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Squad Invasive Tree and Plant Removal" Team which focuses on active removal of invasive vegetation in San Antonio. Much of the Salsa Squad's efforts in 2022 were conducted along the Medina River in southern San Antonio.

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, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River FOundation, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept, Cibolo Nature Center, Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas, etc.

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

500

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Throughout San Antonio in 2022, local organizations such as the City's Parks and Recreation Department, San Antonio River Foundation, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, and TPWD, planted and maintained community gardens for the promotion and protection of monarch and pollinator habitat. In 2022, local school groups also took steps to engage their student bodies and to educate students on the importance of native milkweed and other nectar-producing plants. At Nichols Elementary School, the Nichols Nature Kids group seeded a wildflower patch on campus and planted native milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants. They also added a butterfly nursery on campus where students can watch caterpillars develop into butterflies in an outdoor hutch. At Carnahan Elementary Schools, students and teachers in the Garden Club were able to create a community garden space on campus and added native plants and milkweed to support monarch migration and other pollinators.

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 City Hall, which was renovated in 2021, that include milkweed and other native nectar producing plants, among other things; the San Antonio River Authority and the River Foundation established the North American Friendship Garden in 2021 at Confluence Park and continue to maintain that space today; the COSA Parks and Recreation Natural Areas team maintain 5 pollinator demonstration gardens at prominent public parks to promote native monarch and pollinator friendly habitat; and in 2022 The Pearl mixed-use development in the heart of San Antonio

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established new monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens outside of several of their buildings at 306 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio, TX, 78215.

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, The Pearl

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)

Wilshire Terrace Park and Trailhead, 3911 Rittiman Rd., San Antonio, TX 78218

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

COSA Parks and Recreation Department

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.

1

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.

A vacant lot, approximately 1 acre in size, was converted into a new park trailhead along the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway Trails system near the Wilshire Terrace neighborhood. Once a haven for illegal dumping, the area now is filled with native trees and pollinator-friendly habitat. Parks staff maintain the area and also manage a LID-feature bioswale on site as well.

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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 trailheads 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 plants and maintains milkweed plants and other native nectar-producing plants along trails and within public park areas along the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project area.

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

200

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 seven (7) miles of new trails

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Almost seven (7) miles of trails and several new trailheads were either established in 2022 or under construction as of December 2022 in various locations along the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trail systems. For more information, please visit the COSA Parks and Recreation website here: https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/Parks-Facilities/Trails/Greenway-Trails

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)

Nichols Nature Kids - Nichols Elementary School, Northside ISD - https://www.nisd.net/nichols/extracurriculars/nichols-nature-kids

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE

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NUMBERS only)

1

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Nichols Elementary School

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

The Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative provides guidance and technical support to the school as needed.

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).

100

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

Nichols Nature Kids is planning to draft and send a letter to the City Manager's office in spring of 2023 to encourage more use of native milkweed and nectar-producing plants on City properties whenever possible.

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.

0.25

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

The Nichols Nature Kids group plants and maintains native milkweed and other nectar-producing plants in a community demonstration garden on campus. This year they seeded a wildflower patch on campus and educated the student body on the importance monarch and other pollinators. They have added signage to their garden to display the stages of monarch butterfly metamorphosis. The school also added a butterfly nursery on campus where students can watch caterpillars develop into butterflies in an outdoor hutch. The demonstration garden is in large part built from scrap and recycled materials, and guests are invited to enjoy the entire project.

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to

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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).

20

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

Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative, COSA Parks and Recreation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (TPWD)

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.

TWPD continues to explore ways to engage local San Antonio subdivisions, neighborhood groups and HOAs to work together to create habitat for pollinators and birds. The Alamo Area Monarch Collaborative continues to explore ways on how best to connect with local groups on how to expand their outreach and education efforts as well.

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, City of San Antonio, Alamo Area Forest Partnership

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

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In 2021, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department designated San Antonio as a Bird City Texas Community (https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas). Also, for the last seven (7) years, San Antonio has maintained Tree City USA status through the Arbor Day Foundation (https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/#recognizedSection).

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 8, 2022

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation photo.pdf

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