# 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, and other key stakeholders, 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 2024

### 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

## 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.).**

31690

**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.)**

11043

**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.**

8

**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, businesses, 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 Natural Areas and horticultural teams engaged in broad outreach again in 2024, both by adopting out native milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants, propagating milkweed and other nectar producing plants in-house, and through 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

### 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 5, 2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

2024 Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day proclamation - 10.5.24.jpg

### 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, and at the nearby historic Spanish Governor's Palace, which include milkweed and

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other native nectar producing plants, among other things. Additionally, the COSA Parks and Recreation Natural Areas team maintain pollinator demonstration gardens at Friedrich Wilderness Park, Phil Hardberger Park, Eisenhower Park, Panther Springs Park and Classen-Steubing Ranch Park to promote native monarch and pollinator friendly habitat. The Parks Horticulture team also maintains pollinator gardens at the historic Japanese Tea Garden and the Island House at Woodlawn Lake Park. Lastly, the San Antonio Botanical Garden, located at 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209, also maintains several monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens on the grounds of its 39-acre compound.

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

City of San Antonio, San Antonio Botanical Garden

**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.**

50

## 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)**

"The San Antonio River Authority planted pollinator friendly native nectar plants in the San Antonio River ROW within the Mission and Museum Reaches of the River Walk, San Pedro Creek Culture Park, and Nature Parks. COSA Parks and Rec: Hardberger Park 8400 NW Military Hwy, Panther Springs Park 22635 Wilderness Oak, Classen Steubing Ranch Park 19301 Classen Crest"

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

50

**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.**

1

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

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COSA staff and volunteers maintain the planted and seeded areas with periodic weeding to reduce competition with exotic invasive plants. In addition, no mow signs were installed and mowing regimes were altered to benefit the wildflowers. Supplemental water is provided in times of drought.

## 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)**

Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT): The San Antonio Chapter supported NPSOT in development and implementation of the Native Plants in Schools Program: https://www.npsot.org/our-work/native-plants-in-schools/. Bexar Audubon: offers educational field trips to San Antonio schools that include nature walks and activities that teach children about the importance of habitat. Blooming with Birdie: Caterpillar Condos for Classrooms. Young Women's Leadership Academy: Monarch Heroes Garden was created and a sign designating the areas was erected. CoSA Parks: Northridge Park pollinator planting, planning for the McAllister Park pollinator garden, and planning for Monterrey Park Pollinator Garden. "

**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)**

345

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

Project ACORN schools: Aue Elementary School, Brauchle Elementary School, Briscoe Elementary School, Burke Elementary School, Carlos Coon Elementary School, Fisher Elementary School, Forester Elementary School, Hector Garcia Middle School, Helotes Elementary School, Hobby Middle School, Jordan Middle School, Krueger Elementary School, Leon Valley Elementary School, Locke Hill Elementary School, Los Reyes Elementary School, Mary Hull Elementary School, Meadow Village Elementary School, Mireles Elementary School, Mora Elementary School, Murnin Elementary School, Nichols Elementary School, Powell Elementary School, Raba Elementary School, Stevenson Middle School, Sul Ross Middle School, Thorton Elementary School, Timberwilde Elementary School, Westwood Terrace Elementary School, Zachry Middle School. San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas education coordinators: provide nature based education at various parks, libraries, and schools throughout the year. Several programs directly relate to monarch, butterflies, milkweed, and pollinator gardening. Young Women's Leadership Academy Blooming with Birdie: 256 campuses in the Greater San Antonio Area

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

NPOST: The Native Plants in Schools Program provides free resources online including a School Starter Guide, curriculum, activities, presentations, example garden information, and grants. Blooming with Birdie: Teks-aligned digital curriculum with hands-on activities, 1-milkweed plant, 2-monarch caterpillars, monarch related fictional books, tags for citizen science, native nectar plant starters.

**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).**

Bexar Audubon: 50 educators, 400 students; San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas education coordinators: 4481 adults, 4242 children reached with monarch, pollinator programming; Blooming with Birdie: 256 educators, ~6,400 students.

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

"Project ACORN Blooming with Birdie: Project Bloom, the Botanical Garden, the Office of Sustainability (grant), Latino Outdoors (volunteers)"

**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.**

3

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

Students, teachers, parents and school groundskeepers have assumed responsibility for maintaining the majority of newly installed pollinator gardens at all these locations.

## 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?**

City of San Antonio, Bexar Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Alamo Area Forest Partnership, San Antonio Independent School District

**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 eight years, San Antonio has maintained Tree City USA status through the Arbor Day Foundation (https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/#recognizedSection).Additionally, in 2023, San Antonio became the first city in Texas to successfully achieve Tree City of the World designation (https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/directory.cfm). Monarch Heroes registered gardens.

## 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).**

1437

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

COSA Parks and Recreation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Alamo Area Master Naturalists (AAMN), Native Plant Society of Texas

**When did this challenge take place?**

April 2024

**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.**

.25

**Please describe your challenge and the results.**

In 2024, COSA Parks and Recreation, TPWD, AAMN, and others promoted the annual City Nature Challenge and San Antonio, where cities around the world compete to see who can make the most observations of nature, 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, and an annual snapshot of some of the valuable habitat available. Local partners continue to participate in our planning meetings, engage their members and the public through social media, and hosting events at their sites during the challenge. In 2024, the San Antonio Metro Area had 65,067 observations, 3,790 species, 1,378 identifiers, and 1,389

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observers. Seventy-one monarch observations were recorded. San Antonio ranked first in the number of observations in the United States for the first time! The San Antonio River Authority supported the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge by providing educational outings that provided instruction on using the iNaturalist phone app and collected data at multiple locations. The San Antonio Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas supported the iNaturalist City Nature Challenge by providing educational outings that provided instruction on using the iNaturalist phone app and collected data at multiple locations.

## 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).**

103

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

Bexar Audubon, North American Butterfly Association, Alamo Area Master Naturalist, San Antonio Parks and Recreation

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

The City of San Antonio participates in the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) count twice each year. The Northwest San Antonio count circle includes many of the City's natural area parks, and staff and volunteers spend the day counting as many butterflies as they can find. In 2024, the June NABA count included 30 observers that counted 1,003 individuals of 54 species. The October NABA count included 18 observers that counted 1024 butterflies of 47 species . Bexar Audubon hosted a monarch tagging and lifecycle workshop where participants learned about the role of milkweed and monarch tagging. Alamo Area Master Naturalists hosted a monarch tagging event at the Butterfly Learning Center at Hardberger Park. Twenty-two monarchs were tagged and released.

## 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?**

NPOST: The San Antonio Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas partnered with Rainbow Gardens (Bandera Road) and Pollinatives nurseries to create and maintain native plant demonstration gardens at the nurseries. COSA Parks and Rec Natural Areas: Monarch Watch Urban Park Operations: N/A Bexar Audubon.

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

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322

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

NPOST: The San Antonio Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas volunteers planned, designed, installed and maintained the 2 demonstration gardens. They planted 90 native nectar-producing plants at the Pollinatives demonstration garden, and 60 nectar-producing plants at the Rainbow Gardens (Bandera Road) demonstration garden. COSA Parks and Rec Natural Areas: obtained a grant from Monarch Watch to acquire 232 antelope horn milkweeds in two pollinator meadows at Crownridge Canyon Narural Area and Rancho Diana Nature Preserve. Urban Park Operations- several San Antonio Parks and Recreation gardens were supplemented with additional milkweed. Locations: Japanese Tea Garden, Island House at Woodlawn Lake Park, Darner, Spanish Governor's Place. A raised bed at Northridge Park was converted to a native pollinator garden by a citizen adoption. Seven species of native plants were plated. Bexar Audubon maintains a one-acre pollinator garden.

## 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.**

86.4

**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.**

Bexar Audubon hosts volunteer groups throughout the year that help with the removal of invasive species. They are also doing a grassland restoration on site, with one of the focuses being on removal of invasive species. San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Areas team removes invasive plants throughout the year using staff and volunteers.

## 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)**

10000

**What was the date of your festival?**

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October 5, 2024

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

Blooming with Birdie, City of San Antonio, San Antonio River Authority, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, San Antonio Zoo, Native Plant Society of Texas - SA Chapter, Bexar Audubon, Bat Conservation International, Arboretum San Antonio, Latino Outdoors, EcoRise, Texas Master Naturalist, H-E-B, and others.

**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).**

Accessibility- The Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival is free to attend and located in Brackenridge Park, a central location in San Antonio. The park is also along the Howard Peak Greenway system and therefore connected to miles of hike and bike trails. The San Antonio River Authority supported the annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival by attending an educational booth that offered attendees the opportunity to take the Pollinator Pledge. The San Antonio Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas supported the annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival by giving away free native seed packets and attending an educational booth that offered interactive activities for youth and adults. Blooming with Birdie: This event was completely free and made possible by foundations, the city, public entities, and the private sector. Hours were from 9am-1pm at Brackenridge Park. A bikeride in partenrship wtih Earn A Bike enhanced accessibility. Educational signage, experiential education (Monarch Migration Obstacle Course), plant give-aways, hands-on learning. Over 40 mission aligned non profits, public support (Parks, Office of Sustainabilty) public support (SAWS, SARA, CPS) https://www.bloomingwithbirdie.com/monarchfest https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w2RS3xFGY8

## 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)**

22

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

San Antonio River Authority: The signage includes names of plants and their benefits for pollinators. NPOST: The signage at the Rainbow Gardens (Bandera Road) and Pollinatives nurseries demonstration gardens includes names of plants and their benefits for pollinators. Bexar Audubon: Monarch habitat. COSA Parks and Recreation Department: pollinators. SAISD YWLA: Monarch Heroes Monarch habitat sign.

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## 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).

## 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, COSA Public Works Department, 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).**

100

**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).**

2024 saw the continued promotion of the City's "Bloom" public art sculptures 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 Tezel Road Trailhead facility in 2022, but were featured prominently again in 2024 at the grand opening of a new field office for City Council District 6, which is now located adjacent to the Tezel Road Trailhead. The "Bloom" concept was designed by local San Antonio artist

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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.

## 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 City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department has helped design, and now manages and maintains, over 100 miles of paved trails along the Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway trail systems. These trails run along the Leon Creek, Salado Creek, Westside Creeks, and Medina River throughout the city. Additionally, the San Antonio River Authority has designed, and now manages and maintains, several miles of trails along the San Antonio River. All along these trails for both COSA and SARA are pollinator gardens that were added in at key locations and trailheads throughout the trail systems. There are currently over 30 miles of new Linear Greenway trails that are either under construction or in design, and both COSA and SARA continue to 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 managementpractices.

## 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).**

Blooming with Birdie, a San Antonio science-based interactive mobile education and outreach organization designed to promote Monarchs and other pollinators, in collaboration with the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, and other key stakeholders, engaged in social media outreach and newsletters throughout 2024. As in years past, 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://www.bloomingwithbirdie.com/. Additionally, staff from City of San Antonio (COSA) Parks and Recreation Dept. again engaged in several public efforts to raise awareness in the greater San Antonio area about the importance of monarch and pollinator

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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. In 2021, the TPWD San Antonio urban office created a video in titled "How to Help Monarch Butterflies" which, as of 2024, has over 3,000 views on the TPWD YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92HAtwycWgA. Finally, the Texas Butterfly Ranch website (https://texasbutterflyranch.com/) is maintained by local San Antonio monarch scholar and enthusiast Monika Maeckle and provides a wealth of knowledge, insight, outreach and opportunities to San Antonio residents and beyond. In 2024, Monica Maeckle also published a new book titled "The Monarch Butterfly Migration: Its Rise and Fall."

## 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, San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS)

**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, Brackenridge 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. The SAWS Garden Style website is designed in part to help local residents identify native nectar producing plants, and assist them with planting advice for us in residential yards and gardens. The SAWS Garden Style website can be viewed here: https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/garden-tips-blog/category/plants/.

## Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

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PHP AAMN Demonstration garden1.jpg

**Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.**

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department's Natural Areas Team provides educational programming to several community groups. In 2024, the NAs team connected and engaged with the following garden groups: Monte Vista Garden Club, McAndrew Elementary School NISD Garden Club, Leon Valley Elementary School NISD - Garden Club, and Elrod Elementary School Garden Club (NISD). The Alamo Area Master Naturalist group engaged in propagating and planting workshops with the community at the Butterfly Learning Center and Demonstration garden at Phil Hardberger Park, and led guided garden tours showing participants the native pollinators they can use in their yards.

## 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.

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

PHP AAMN Demonstration garden2.jpg

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

Alamo Area Master Naturalists, San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, City of San Antonio

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

COSA continues to engage several groups that maintain native plant gardens within city parks. The Alamo Area Master Naturslist (AAMN) organization installed and maintain a native plant demonstration garden at Phil Hardberger Park that provides visitors with examples for native landscaping. AAMN volunteers provide many educational opportunities each year in the garden to teach about the plant species used and the benefits of native gardens. The Native Plant Society of Texas maintains a native pollinator garden at Friedrich Wilderness Park. The garden contains plant labels so that visitors can identify the native plants that they see. The Native Plant Society of Texas also holds their regular meetings at Phil Hardberger Park.

## 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.**

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San Antonio River Authority

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

The San Antonio River Authority supported HOAs by providing vegetation lists and sustainable management recommendations for HOA-maintained natural areas.

## 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.**

The Bexar County Audubon chapter offers 15 free public programs per year that cover a variety of topics on conservation. Additionally, the COSA Parks and Recreation Department partnered with COSA Human Services and San Antonio Public Libraries to provide a meaningful educational outreach project as part of the Nature Smart Libraries Initiative. One of the goals of the Nature Smart Libraries program is to identify ways that municipalities, through Parks, library systems, and other stakeholder organizations, can work together to promote nature-based education and outreach. Four (4) flyers were generated that were then placed in libraries across the City. These flyers were conservation focused, family friendly, and featured interactive components.

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

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

Plant adoption - Earth Day 2024.jpg

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

Over 25,500 trees and native plants were given away by the City of San Antonio and its partner organizations in 2024. This included efforts by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society, the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, and others.

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

25000

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

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City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Zoo, Blooming with Birdie, 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, HEB, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy

## Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

**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

**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.**

The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department has abandoned the use of glyphosate-based herbicides and pesticides in all field-based practices. Whenever possible, the department employs manual techniques to remove harmful, noxious, or invasive plants and trees.

## Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

**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 and in progress

**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.**

August 11, 2016

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

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On August 11, 2016, the City of San Antonio City Council adopted the SA Tomorrow Sustainability Plan, which serves as a road map to help guide community efforts toward greater economic, environmental and social advancements in sustainability. That plan calls for stronger attention to and adoption of a more universal Dark Skies policy for the city. More information is available via this link:https://www.sanantonio.gov/sustainability/Community-Sustainability/Community-Programs/DarkSkyPolicyEvaluation. Additionally, in 2008, San Antonio City Council also adopted the Military Lighting Overlay District to help protect light pollution from adversely impacting nearby military installations. This has had a residual and beneficial impact on local wildlife species as well, including Monarch butterflies.

## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

EcoCentro2.jpg

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

1802 N. Main Ave., San Antonio, TX 78212

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

Eco Centro

**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.**

.25

**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.**

Over the last year or so, the William S. Sinkin Eco Centro headquarters has been working to repurpose two (2) quarter-acre adjacent vacant lots to a series of gardens, with one being dedicated to a sustainable neighborhood vegetable garden and the other a demonstration garden more focused on pollinator friendly plants. Both are to be used by Eco Centro for education and outreach.

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## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

20

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Swamp milkweed and antelope horns milkweed

**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 with assistance from Alamo Area Master Naturalists and the Native Plant Society of Texas

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

The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department propagated at least 100 native milkweed plants in 2024. Additionally, Parks staff from the Horticulture and Natural Areas teams have begun to collect and propagate native pollinator plants such as frogfruit and flame acanthus for planting in San Antonio parks.

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