City of San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Pledge Summary

The City of San Antonio 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 2025

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.).

24301

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.)

8407

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1

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 2025, 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 from Mexico up and into the United States. 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?

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department spearheads a regional collaborative effort to gather data and information from other governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, neighborhood groups, and other key stakeholders to help document and showcase all the great work being done toward Monarch protection and preservation in the greater San Antonio area. Additionally, the Central Texas Monarch and Milkweed Initiative, which consists of master gardener groups, nurseries, and the San Antonio Express News, is dedicated to increasing milkweed plantings in the area as well as the promotion of Monarch breeding stations in central Texas.

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

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.

San Antonio River Authority (SARA) staff gave presentations in 2025 that included guidance on planting native milkweed and nectar producing plants to community garden groups including the Forest Oaks Garden Club, Texas AgriLife Extension, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Public Gardens Association, San Antonio Botanical Garden, and Highland Lakes Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

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: Social Media Campaign (reels) and Pollinator Garden Starter Kits. Over 19.4k views on Blooming with Birdie & Rainbow Gardens Instagram. The San Antonio

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Water System (SAWS) public utility has a weekly GardenStyleSA.com eNewsletter often features articles about pollinator plants and how to create water saving landscapes and other multiple benefits, including reducing stormwater runoff and providing habitat for monarchs and other wildlife. SAWS Garden Style claims 32,965 newsletter subscribers. The Texas Butterfly Ranch website issues monthly electronic articles for subscribers to help keep the San Antonio populace up to date on current pollinator, gardening and native plant news. Website: https://texasbutterflyranch.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 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

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 (SARA), 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.

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 18, 2025

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

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Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025 Mayors Monarch Pledge Day proclamation.jpg

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.

San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), San Antonio Botanical Gardens, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, Bexar County Master Gardeners, Green Spaces Alliance, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, SAC Eco Centro, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department

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

All the organizations promote native plants and water wise practices in workshops, presentations throughout the year. Over 40,000 in-person engagements occurred in 2025, according to SAWS.

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.

63 Homeowners Associations and Neighborhood Associations partnered to promote SAWS' 2025 WaterSaver Landscape Coupon Program which features native, pollinator friendly, drought tolerant plant species as an alternative to grass and turf landscapes. Website: https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/coupons-rebates/watersaver-landscape-coupon/

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

Partners are asked to send out messages to all their residents focused on watering during drought restrictions and appropriate seasonal planting. SAWS partners with local native plant nurseries in San Antonio to encourage residents to replace grass and turf with native plants to save water and promote pollinator friendly habitat.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to

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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 (COSA) Parks and Recreation Department has helped design, and now manages and maintains, over 102 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 (SARA) 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 40 miles of new Linear Greenway trails that are either in design or under construction, 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 management practices.

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

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

City Lights sculpture-6.jpg

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

City Lights sculpture-2.jpg

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

Cty Lights sculpture-4.jpg

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

COSA Department of Arts and Culture, COSA Public Works Department, COSA Center City Development Office

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).

30

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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).

2025 saw the installation of the new City Lights public art and street light sculpture outside of City Tower, the main City of San Antonio office building in downtown San Antonio. City Lights by San Antonio artists R&R&R (Robert Diaz de Leon, Ronny Eckels, Ryan Takaba) is a pair of sculptures welcoming visitors to San Antonio's City Tower. These two nearly 19-foot sculptures are located at 100 W. Houston Street in front of City Tower, known as the headquarters for the City of San Antonio's operations. R&R&R selected Pecos Red for the lamp posts to pay homage to the historic architectural features downtown. The design also references native flora and fauna through several symbols. Recalling elements from Art Nouveau, the sculptures bring a touch of nature to the urban core of downtown. Yucca blossoms adorn the lanterns providing light symbolizing protection. The native plant's spikes protect the bloom while its fragile flowers can withstand intense sunlight. Swirling steel and bronze vines surround the central lamp posts. These vines are inspired by Queen's Wreath, a drought-tolerant plant commonly found climbing the sides of local homes. When it blooms, it attracts butterflies, which continue to migrate through this region. Just like the butterflies, people are drawn to the sculpture's light, searching for San Antonio's City Lights. More information on the sculptures is available via this link: https://events.getcreativesanantonio.com/public-art/city-lights/

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.

COSA Parks and Recreation Natural Areas education coordinators provide free nature-based educational programming throughout the year at various parks, schools, and libraries. Programming relating to pollinators and pollinator plants includes Starting out Wild lessons geared toward butterflies and native plants, Monarch Butterfly Dia De Los Muertos events, guided hikes, and more. The total amount of people reached through these programs was 2,505 (1,171 adults, 1,134 kids).

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 25,000 trees and native plants were given away by the City of San Antonio and its partner organizations in 2025. This included efforts by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society, San Antonio Water Systems, local school districts, and others.

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

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20000

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, Blooming with Birdie, Festival of Flowers, Bexar County Master Gardeners, Garden Volunteers of South Texas, Green Spaces Alliance, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, Texas Butterfly Ranch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio River Foundation, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, San Antonio Botanical Garden, HEB, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, North East Independent School District

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, and at the nearby historic Spanish Governor's Palace, which include milkweed and other native nectar producing plants, and other pollinator friendly plants. 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 COSA Parks and Recreation Department's 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 Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Botanical Garden, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society of Texas

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Native Seed Library-1.jpg

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

Native Seed Library-2.jpg

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

Native Seed Library-3.jpg

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

25

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 continued to propagate native milkweed plants in 2025. Parks staff from the Horticulture and Natural Areas teams continue to collect and propagate native pollinator plants such as frogfruit, coneflowers, sunflowers, and others, for planting in San Antonio parks. In 2025, staff from the Parks and Recreation Natural Resources team partnered with a local member of the Scouting America to construct and install a Native Seed Library at the main park trailhead. The seed library is designed to encourage staff and park visitors to engage in seed collection and sharing of native species.

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)

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The San Antonio River Authority plants and maintains milkweed and other 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 Recreation planted and maintained milkweed and other pollinator friendly native nectar plants at Panther Springs Park (22635 Wilderness Oak), Classen-Steubing Ranch Park (20202 Hardy Oak Blvd.), and in parking lot medians at the Stanley Spigel Trailhead (8123 Guilbeau Rd.) and the Briar Glen Trailhead (4214 Briar Glen) along the Howard W. Peak Greenway trail system.

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

25

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.

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 are installed and mowing schedules are modified to benefit the plantings. 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)

Northside ISD's Project ACORN, which COSA Parks and Recreation staff supported with 28 presentations to elementary after-school garden clubs. "ACORN" stands for Alamo-area Children Organized to Replant Natives. Project Description link: https://www.npsot.org/posts/northside-isds-restoration-endeavors-using-native-plants/; Blooming with Birdie engaged in their annual Caterpillar Condos for Classrooms program (https://www.bloomingwithbirdie.com/caterpillar-condos-buy); the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is leading a pocket prairie installation at Laura Steele Elementary School using a grant provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation Pollinators and Prairies program.

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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)

230

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

NPOST - Laura Steele Montessori Academy (San Antonio ISD) 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.

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

Blooming with Birdie, through their Caterpillar Condos for Classrooms provides digital, hands-on curriculum that aligns with the metamorphosis of a monarch butterfly. NPSOT has a $1,000 grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation that covers all supplies (plants, seeds, hoses, etc.) for their pocket prairie project. They have also created education materials for the students including a prairie presentation and activity workbook and education signage.

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).

7,560 students and 564 educators

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

Blooming with Birdie: Led by Blooming with Birdie: Teacher training at Botanical Garden. Education partners at training: SARA, Ecorise, Native Plant Society, Rainbow Gardens. NPOST - In addition to NPSOT-SA volunteers, they also partnered with Salsa Squad volunteers to help with the prairie installation. NEISD - Monarch Heroes, Monarch Joint Venture, Blooming with Birdie, EcoRise, Monarch Symbolic Migration, Lowe's Toolbox for Education, Nectar Bar, Rainbow Gardens

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.

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1

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

Each group project is different, and maintenance schedules are identified and executed by a mix of project team leads, volunteers, and students. They include watering, weeding, and pruning at regular intervals, and both short- and long-term maintenance schedules are created by each group.

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.

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August 11, 2016

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

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.

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.

515 acres

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 San Antonio River Authority - maintains approximately 500 acres of land along the Museum Reach, Mission Reach, and San Pedro Creek Culture Park. Their work includes removal of non-native invasive plants using mechanical and chemical methods. San Antonio Parks and Recreation (approximately 15 acres) - Natural Areas team removes invasive plants to ensure the health of the natural area ecosystems. Mechanical and some chemical methods are used.

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).

2606

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

Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Bexar Audubon, San Antonio River Authority.

When did this challenge take place?

April 25-28, 2025

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 2025, COSA Parks and Recreation, TPWD, AAMN, and other partner agencies and organizations promoted the annual City Nature Challenge, 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 planning meetings, engage their members and the public through social media, and hosting events at their sites during the challenge. In 2025, the San Antonio Metro Area had 121,577 observations, 4,456 species, 1,948 identifiers, and 2,606 observers. Seventy-two monarch observations were recorded. The San Antonio Metro Area was the top metro area in the United States for 2025, and was the second highest recording metro area globally.

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, AlamoArea 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)

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

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nine 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).

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)

11000

What was the date of your festival?

Two Festivals: 1. The Annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival on October 18, 2025, and 2. the SAWS Spring Bloom Festival on March 8, 2025

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, San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), 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 over 40 other partner organizations and agences.

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 Annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival, hosted by Blooming with Birdie: 9am-2pm, FREE, free parking and trolley system to 5 parking lots, bus lines advertised, Plant and Tree giveaway (>1k of ea), invited over 200 Title 1 schools throughout Greater San Antonio. Blooming with Birdie facilitated: Monarch Migration Obstacle Course, Bird City Lights Out Maze, People as Pollinators Experiment (everyone became a pollinator!), Pollinator Picnic, Bee Swarm who collected signature for becoming a Bee City, Pollinator Posse who educated about harms of pesticides, SARA litterbugs who collected anti-littering promises, 2 community art murals about monarchs. Website: https://www.bloomingwithbirdie.com/monarchfest SAWS Spring Bloom - Over 1,200 native plants were given at Spring Bloom. Website: https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/event/springbloom-2025/

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).

1100

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environment for the Americas, Monarch Joint Venture, COSA Parks and Recreation Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) , North East Independent School District (NEISD), Central Texas Monarch and Milkweed Initiative, Headwaters Coalition at Incarnate Word University

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environment for the Americas, Monarch Joint Venture: Monarch Watch Fall Migration Tagging https://monarchwatch.org/tagging/ IMMP (Monarch Joint Venture) https://monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/science/integrated-monarch-monitoring-program COSA Parks and Recreation Natural Areas team - San Antonio Parks and Recreation staff coordinate four butterfly surveys each year as a part of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) butterfly survey program. On each survey, 7-9 teams concurrently survey different locations throughout the city using the same protocols. Data is compiled and submitted to NABA online. TPWD - BioBlitz for the TPWD Statewide Polinator BioBlitz at Toyota Plant on 10/10/2025. NEISD - monitoring monarch migration and health with students in NEISD schools. Central Texas Monarch and Milkweed Initiative - Between January 2024 and December 2025, the CTMMI offered 14 classes on monarch conservation and monarch habitat protection and conservation. During that same time, they distributed 1,090 seeded milkweed containers with various milkweed species. The Headwaters Coalition at the University of the Incarnate Word, located in San Antonio, also partnered with a research team from the University of San Diego to engage in Gulf Fritillary Butterfly Research during the summer of 2025.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollination In Progress sign-1.jpg

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

Pollination In Progress sign-2.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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50

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

There are well over 50 signs displayed at various locations throughout San Antonio to call attention to Monarch gardens and other pollinator habitats. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has interpretive signage at their main office, Environmental Center, along the Museum and Mission Reach sections of the River Walk, at San Pedro Creek Culture Park, and at Confluence Park. The SARA signs describe the benefits of pollinators and pollinator habitat. Northside Independent School District (NISD) has interpretive signs at most of the 29 Project ACORN school campus gardens throughout the district. Signs are different at each campus. Some signs include information about Monarch Heroes, Monarch Joint Venter, or general pollinator or butterfly-centric information. Additionally, the COSA Parks and Recreation Department has numerous "Pollination in Progress" signage posted in native plant gardens in parks across San Antonio, including the pollinator garden located at the main Parks and Recreation Department headquarters, located at 5800 Old Hwy 90.

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).

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

FWP office septic field-1.jpg

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

FWP office septic field-4.jpg

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

FWP office septic field-solarization.jpg

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

Main FWP septic field-before.jpg

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

Main FWP septic field-after.jpg

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

Friedrich Wilderness Park, 21395 Milsa Dr, San Antonio, TX 78256

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

COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Public Works 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)

2

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

In 2025, Friedrich Wilderness Park (FWP) was the recipient of two (2) new septic systems to serve the park's main trailhead and the staff office buildings. The areas cleared for the septic fields were not traditional vacant lots, per se, but were disturbed areas that had previously been used for other purposes. The main trailhead field was seeded with native

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seed, which has grown in well. The office septic field is currently undergoing solarization to eradicate invasive KR Bluestem grasses. Once completed, Parks staff will work to seed with native, pollinator friendly seed and will work to establish milkweed plants on site to help promote Monarch habitat.

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?

Alamo Area Master Naturalists (AAMN), the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department

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

150

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

COSA Parks and Recreation staff planted milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants in community gardens at Civic Park, Woodlawn Lake Park, Martinez Park, and at Stanley Spigel Trailhead and Briar Glen Trailhead. AAMN and NPOST - Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society members prepared and planted new garden sites at the Medina River Natural Area. This effort was funded by a Native Plant Society of Texas Bring Back the Monarchs Grant.

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