City of Sugar Land

Sugar Land, TX

Mayor Joe Zimmerman

Pledge Summary

Sugar Land is a city in Central Texas with a population of roughly 118,000. The city has 9 miles of Brazos River Corridor and is home to more than 2,000 acres of parks and open space. Mayor Joe R. Zimmerman of Sugar Land, TX has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Carol McCutcheon	2026	1/2/2026	
Mayor Joe Zimmerman	2025	2/12/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Joe Zimmerman	2024	1/31/2024	Signatories
Mayor Joe Zimmerman	2023	3/31/2023	Signatories
Mayor Joe Zimmerman	2022	2/14/2022	Signatories
Mayor Joe Zimmerman	2021	4/22/2021	Signatories

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.).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u918:v1.14.0.49966]

500

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.)

20 youth and 480 adults

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

4.5

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.

Brazos River Park, Sugar Land Memorial Park, Outdoor of Nature and Science Museum at Sugar Land, Outdoor of City of Sugar Land Animal Shelter

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

We had an interview with local newspaper, which covers all communities including low-income communities and communities of color. We have a lot of volunteers or student workers from communities of colors. We engage them in the pollinator habitat related tasks and inform them about the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program.

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

Building a sustainable environment

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 action items listed in this program, the webinars hosted by NWF, Monarch Joint Venture, and the resource information on this website, are all very helpful. Grants or financial support for us to buy milkweed seeds will be very helpful. We can easily engage community volunteers to install the seeds and that's most effective way to engage the community so far.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u918:v1.14.0.49966]

N/A.

Selected Action Items

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

Brazos River Park-mowing maps 2020.pdf

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

Pollinator Meadow Grant Seeds Purchased-2021.pdf

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

November 13 event 7.jpg

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

Two primary organizations: City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful

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

City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation modified the mowing map of Brazos River Park to reduce large areas of 45-time a year mowing to twice a year for pollinator meadows. Please see attached Brazos River Park Mowing Map. Schedule F is twice a year for wildflower meadows. City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation collaborated with Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, and won $10,154.60 of Pollinator Meadow Grant from CenterPoint Energy. We organized eight seeding events with volunteers to from Mid-October to the beginning of December to install 85 lbs. of wildflower seeds in Brazos River Park. The seeds include 17 lbs. of milkweed seeds. Attached please find the seed list we purchased using the grant and a photo of one of the volunteer events.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u918:v1.14.0.49966]

IMG_3830.JPG

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

IMG_4030.JPG

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

IMG_4035.JPG

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

Memorial Park Butterfly Garden Information.pdf

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 Sugar Land has a butterfly garden at the Sugar Land Memorial Park (29°33'44.1"N 95°38'35.9"W). It is part of the Brazos River Corridor, and in the Monarch migration southern gateway before the monarchs fly to Mexico for winter. It takes up about 2,300 sf of land next to a lake and loop trail. The official address for the park is 15300 University Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479. The garden can be reached walking to the left side of the park not far off from the parking lot. Here, individuals will see numerous milkweeds and pollinator plants that we have planted in an effort to assist the monarch butterfly habitat preservation. Our garden is tended to weekly and is kept up to par by our city's generous volunteers that are overseen by staff. There is currently no irrigation system in place at the butterfly garden. The plants are currently watered by a windmill that draws water from an underground source. Our volunteers also purchased water pipes and made a makeshift watering system. Two of our volunteers have received the "Volunteer of the Year" award from our mayor and continue to make a change in their community. At the garden, we monitor the full monarch life cycle from the egg to adult. These surveys allow us to become more knowledgeable in our work and further continue to help the butterflies. Our garden is also right next to a popular jogging loop trail by the lake that causes great interactions between volunteers and city residents. Besides being a shelter for monarch butterflies, our garden provides great opportunities for high school students to do volunteer work and does great in assisting mental health- especially during the pandemic. The city also has a pollinator plant meadow at our Brazos River Park. The official location for this park is 18427 Southwest Fwy, Sugar Land, TX 77479.

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

Over the last five years, we have collaborated with Monarch Gateway, Student Conservation Association, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Houston Wilderness and numerous volunteers to establish and maintain this garden.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u918:v1.14.0.49966]

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.05

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

IMG_4128.JPG

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

Wildflower Signage.JPG

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

3

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

The sign posted in front of the butterfly garden at Sugar Land Memorial Park tells the reader information about the types of pollinator plants that are in the garden, their functions, as well as informing them about the monarch butterflies they are intended to help. As for Brazos River Park, the signs there share quick information about growing time for the wildflowers, insects that thrive off of them, and the numerous wildflowers that are planted on the site.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u918:v1.14.0.49966]