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 111,000. 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 2022

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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.

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 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

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below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.07

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

We want to do our part in helping pollinators thrive and continue 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?

We are fortunate to have several engaged high school groups that volunteer planting, weeding and surveying our butterfly garden and pollinator meadows. Other than that huge resource, other helpful resources include the action items listed in this program, the webinars hosted by NWF, Monarch Joint Venture, and the resource information on the NWF website. Grants or financial support for us to buy milkweed seeds would be very helpful.

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.).

50

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, City Hall Annex, Sugar Land Memorial Park, Oyster Creek Park, outside of the Natural Science Museum at Sugar Land and outside of the City of Sugar Land Animal Services building.

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

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.)

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40 youth and 10 adults.

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

Earlier this year we added a butterfly garden outside of City Hall Annex Building. And we worked with two scouts to expand the Memorial Park Butterfly Garden this fall. We continue to work with city staff, residents and volunteers to find more ways to add pollinator components to city facilities.

Selected Action Items

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

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

IMMP_Overview.pdf

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

My Sites – IMMP Data Portal-City of Sugar Land.pdf

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

Site Description Form 2 21 2022.pdf

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

Activity 1 Census Survey 2 21 2022.pdf

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

We collaborated with Monarch Joint Venture to identify the pollinator sites to monitor the pollinator plants and Monarch Butterflies. Once per month, we complete the reports and upload to the Monarch Joint Venture monitoring platform. The monitoring activities provide data to Monarch Joint Venture as part of the survey they are performing nationally. Please see the link: https://monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/science/immp

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).

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

We partner with Monarch Joint Venture, engaged volunteers from a local high school and other city residents who are interested in participating.

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)

Butterfly Garden at Sugar Land Memorial Park (15300 University Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479) and the planting beds at City Hall Annex (10405 Corporate Drive, Sugar Land, TX, 77478). The Butterfly Garden at Memorial Park is part of the Brazos River Corridor, and connected with more than 1000 acres of continuous parks and open space along Brazos River. Texas is a gateway of the Monarch fly way before they fly to Mexico. The pollinator habitat in Texas is important to monarch population. In 2022, we not only keep maintaining the butterfly garden, but also worked with two eagle scouts to expand the butterfly garden by another 900 square feet. Parks staff installed two rain barrels to assist with irrigation of the garden. One of the eagle scouts extended the pvc pipes from the Windmill so that it is easier to water the plants in the expansion area. Parks staff also planted wildflower seeds there. The plants at City Hall Annex Building planters died of a bad freeze. Parks staff redesigned the planting beds with pollinator plants, and added wildflower seeds to transfer a typical manicured planting bed to a pollinator garden.

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

Volunteers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other high school volunteer groups.

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

Memorial Park Butterfly Garden.jpg

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

City Hall Annex Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

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Butterfly Garden Rain Barrels 1.jpg

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

IMG_3857-Garden Expansion.JPG

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

IMG_3863-Garden Expansion.JPG

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

IMG_5650.JPG

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.

0.07

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)

3

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

The signage explains that the garden is a butterfly garden, filled with plants that attract and feed butterflies and other pollinators. The sign also explains which types of plants are in the garden and why planting butterfly gardens is so important. By the end of December 2022, we will have 6 educational signage about our pollinator gardens and meadows.

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

Memorial Park Butterfly Garden.jpg

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BRP Wildflower Area 2021.jpg

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

BRP Wildflower Area Sign 2021.png

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

Memorial Park Butterfly Garden.jpg

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

SLMP Butterfly Garden Sign.png

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

Rain Barrels at SLMP Butterfly Garden.JPG

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.

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

We identified mowed areas in the parks system to be pollinator meadows so that we could reduce the mowing schedule from 48 times per year to 2-3 times per year. We have been working with Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Houston Wilderness, volunteers, and Boy/Girl Scouts working on their Eagle Scout projects to install wildflower seeds or pollinator plants in those areas. Additionally, in the park planting beds, we gradually add milkweeds and native nectar plants such as the American Basketflower, Scarlet Sage, Turk's Cap, American Beauty Berry, and Mistflower when the budget allows. This fall we are also adding approximately 100lbs. pollinator flower seeds in the parks and open space.

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.

Annex Entrance Planting 1.jpg

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

Annex Entrance Planting 2.jpg

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

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

2.jpg

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

BRP Connector Road 1.jpg

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

Native American Seed Order.JPG

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

Order #88932 confirmed-Wildseed Farms.pdf

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

Copy of Pollinator Meadow Seeding 2022 Budget 09262022.xls

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

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Serve Sugar Land volunteers, Cullinan Park Conservancy, various troops from Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts; Centerpoint Energy gave our city a grant and participated in the wildflower seeding earlier in 2022.

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