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 120,700. 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 2023

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.
- 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.

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

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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.).

100

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.)

50 youth and 50 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.

2

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.

In Cullinan Park

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

Sugar Land is a very diverse community. When we engage volunteers in all pollinator planting and butterfly garden maintenance programs, we reached communities of colors.

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

To become a more sustainable and pollinator friendly community; To take on and accomplish more actions; to promote eco-tourism.

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 list of actions is a very helpful roadmap for us to improve. I'd like to see some successful examples of how this effort brings eco-tourism.

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

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In addition to all information in the report, we have planted pollinator plant seeds along Brazos River Connector Road. Most recently we are working with Master Naturalists to do a test about what methods we will take to get better blooming results.

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.

TBG-Cullinan Park Phase II- ASI 01 MDC Mark Up (002).pdf

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

South of Parking Lot.jpeg

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

South of Parking Lot.jpeg

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

Seeding on November 18 2023-7.jpg

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

Seed mix prep 1.jpg

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

Seed mix prep 2.jpg

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

20231102_112720-Shade Mix-species.jpg

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

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20231102_112731-Sun Mix-Species.jpg

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

The community organizations and groups that participated are: Cullinan Park Conservancy, City of Sugar Land, Wildlife Habitat Federation, Fort Bend Green, Master Naturalists Texas Chapter and other high school student volunteers.

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

We utilized the demolition area from Cullinan Park Phase II parking lot and trail construction, and planted wildflower native seed mix in those areas. Wildlife Habitat Federation and Fort Bend Green donated approximately 50 lbs. of seed mix after they analyzed the ecosystem and the sun/shade conditions of the seeding areas. These seeded areas will be mowed 2-3 times a year, instead of typical 44 times a year. Parks and Recreation Department has communicated the native seed mix areas to the mowing company.

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.

CoSL working with Master Naturalists Texas Chapter.pdf

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

Master Naturalists Texas Chapter, Wildlife Habitat Federation, Fort Bend Green, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Cullinan Park Conservancy, Sugar Land Regional Airport, and many high school volunteers and other individual volunteers.

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

Master Naturalists Texas Chapter has helped us to coach high school volunteers, maintain the butterfly garden and brainstorm action plans to continue to improve. Keep Sugar Land Beautiful always supports the monarch butterfly conservation efforts by donating native seed mix and recruiting volunteers; Wildlife Habitat Federation and Fort Bend Green donated approximately 50 lbs. native seed mixes that are suitable to Cullinan Park; Cullinan Park Conservancy also support pollinator planting in Cullinan Park by contributing ideas, connections, volunteers, knowledge, funding and effort. Sugar Land Regional Airport had to clear 6 acres of land in Cullinan Park in their runway zone per FAA requirements. They planted pollinator plants and ornamental grass seed mix in the cleared area, and continue to maintain that area.

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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.

volunteer for butterfly garden.JPG

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

Butterfly Garden 3.JPG

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

Butterfly Garden April 2023 copy.jpg

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

Brazos River Park Connector Road 2 copy.jpg

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

BRP Connector Road Spring 2023.jpg

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 Butterfly Garden is located in Sugar Land Memorial Park (15300 University Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479). Sugar Land Memorial Park is also part of the 9-mile Brazos River Corridor in Sugar Land, which is part of Monarch Gateway.

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

The garden is mainly maintained by high school volunteers from Clements High School. Master Naturalists Texas Chapter has been helping since August and they also help teach the high school volunteers how to maintain the garden. We also planted some wildflower seeds in the garden and the seeds are donated by Keep Sugar Land Beautiful.

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

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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.

0.1

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.

DATASHEET_SiteDescription.pdf

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

survey group 2023.jpg

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).

6

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

Monarch Joint Venture

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

The volunteers take pollinator survey bi-weekly or monthly per Monarch Joint Venture's guidance and document the data on the platform. Below is the link to the program: https://immp.monarchjointventure.org/

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Butterfly Garden happy holidays.jpg

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

Brazos River Park Wildflower Area Sign - 24x18 - 2021.jpg

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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 information is in the attached photos. The signs are located at Butterfly Garden and Brazos River Park.

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