City of Sugar Land

Sugar Land, TX

Mayor Joe Zimmerman

Pledge Summary

Sugar Land is the largest city in Fort Bend County, located southwest of the Houston metroplex with a population of roughly 120,700. The city has 9 miles of the 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 2024

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

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

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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.).

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.)

60

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.

0.5

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.

In Cullinan Park, Brazos River Park and Sugar Land Memorial 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, our efforts reach all communities.

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 aid in the growth of all pollinators.

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 very helpful as a roadmap for us to improve one step at a time. I'd like to see some information in regards of engaging a diverse community of all ages to our efforts and sharing education.

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

In addition to all information in the report, we are currently planting seeds along Brazos River Connector Road. We have continued our work with Texas Master Naturalists on the best method to more easily collect seeds in the future.

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.

4 Mowing Maps, Wildflower Meadows and Seeding Events_compressed.pdf

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

The community organizations and groups that participated are: Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Cullinan Park Conservancy, City of Sugar Land, Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter, Eagle Scouts and other high school student volunteers.

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

City of Sugar Land, Texas Master Naturalists and Cullinan Park Conservancy utilized a mowed area from Cullinan Park Phase II construction, and planted wildflower native seed mix. Which bloomed beautifully in the Fall. Keep Sugar Land Beautiful donated approximately 70 lbs of seed mix after they analyzed the ecosystem and the sun/shade conditions of the seeding areas. The seeded areas will be mowed 2-3 times a year, instead of the typical 44 times a year. The Parks and Recreation Department has continued their education and efforts of the native seed mix areas to the mowing contractor.

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.

5 - 2924.03 - TMN Education.JPG

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

5- 2024.03 TMN Education Event.JPG

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

5- 2024.10 Garden Maintenance.jpg

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

Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Cullinan Park Conservancy, HEB, City of Sugar Land Public Works, high school volunteers and other individual volunteers.

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

City of Sugar Land worked with Texas Master Naturalists Coastal Prairie Chapter 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; In April 2024, City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation staff and Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) changed a mowed area in Cullinan Park to a pollinator planting area that successfully attracted hundreds of Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators in the fall. TMN also coached eagle scouts to establish a pollinator garden at First Colony neighborhood, and we started harvesting the seeds from that garden. TMN volunteer also helped to co-advise another eagle scout to recently create another pollinator garden in Cullinan Park. TMN, Cullinan Park Conservancy and City of Sugar Land worked together to apply for an HEB Pollinator Grant of $3000 to create another pollinator meadow in Cullinan Park. The grant application was submitted end of November 2024. City of Sugar Land Parks has started the conversation with City of Sugar Land Public Works to convert some mowed areas or planting beds in Right of Way to pollinator meadows.

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.

9 Have Hope Poster in BRP.jpg

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

9 Its Ok not to be Ok.jpg

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

9 Rain Barrel Wrap Perp.png

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

9 Rain Barrel Wrap.png

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

City of Sugar Land Civic Arts team, Hope For The Day (HFTD)

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).

10

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).

City of Sugar Land Civic Arts group utilized the grant from Hope For The Day (HFTD) to hire local artists to design mural walls featuring pollinators for the mental health messages. Those mural walls were installed in multiple parks in Sugar Land that are very visible to the public. We are installing a pavilion with a rain barrel next to the Sugar Land Memorial Park Butterfly Garden. Civic Arts team hired a local artist to wrap pollinator-themed art around the 300-gallon rain barrel.

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.

12 TMN - Cullinan Park Seeding Event in April.jpg

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

12 TMN habitat Location in October.jpg

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

12 TMN habitat Location in October_2.jpg

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

12 TMN habitat Location in October_3.jpg

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

12 TMN habitat Location in October_4.jpg

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

12 TMN habitat Location in October_5.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)

1. The Butterfly Garden is located in Sugar Land Memorial Park (15300 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479, 29°33'44.10"N, 95°38'35.79"W) Sugar Land Memorial Park is also part of the 9-mile Brazos River Corridor in Sugar Land, which is part of Monarch Gateway.
2. 2. A new pollinator-friendly demonstration garden in Cullinan Park near the new parking lot. (12414 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 77498, 29°38'6.80"N, 95°39'41.68"W). Cullinan Park is heavily wooded and is a destination for birding. However it doesn't have a diversity of pollinator plants to attract monarch even it is a well-preserved 750-acre parkland.

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

Each year we work with volunteers to maintain and improve the butterfly garden. This year Keep Sugar Land Beautiful donated 20 more pollinator plants to the garden in order to increase the diversity of the pollinator plants. In addition, we are planting wildflowers seeds in the garden and Connector road at the park with seeds donated by Keep Sugar Land Beautiful. At Cullinan Park, we worked with Texas Master Naturalist to establish a new pollinator-friendly demonstration garden in Cullinan Park near the new parking lot. We did the seeding event in April and this garden attracted hundreds of pollinators in the fall. This garden is a starting point of establishing more pollinator-friendly ecosystem in the park. In November 2024, we (the City and TMN) worked with an Eagle Scout to add another pollinator-friendly demonstration garden next to a main trailhead in the park. (29°38'7.98"N, 95°39'23.37"W)

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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.

0.5

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.

18 example of email communication with Monarch Joint Venture.pdf

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

18 email attachment 9-14-2024.pdf

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

18 confirmation of work with Monarch Joint Venture.pdf

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

More native milkweed at Oyster Creek Park.pdf

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).

10

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

Monarch Joint Venture, Clements High School EcoFun club

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

The high school volunteers from Clements High School EcoFun Club take pollinator survey bi-weekly or monthly per Monarch Joint Venture's guidance and document the data on the

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platform. TMN volunteers also document the surveys of pollinator plants and pollinators in Inaturalist.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.

22 Colony Grant Pocket Prairie Scout Project 1.JPG

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

22 Colony Grant Pocket Prairie Scout Project 2.JPG

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

22 Colony Grant Pocket Prairie Scout Project 3.JPG

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

22 Colony Grant Pocket Prairie Scout Project 4.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

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

Butterfly Garden 4.JPG

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

4

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

They are located in Brazos River Park, Memorial Park and Colony Grant HOA land.

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