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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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.).

105

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.)

65

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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.

0.4

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, Sugar Land Memorial Park, and a Roundabout planting improvement at L.J. Parkway & Commonwealth Dr.

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 Sugar Land is committed to equitable engagement through its Monarch Pledge initiatives. By intentionally engaging our diverse volunteer base in all pollinator planting and butterfly garden maintenance programs, our efforts successfully reach a variety of communities across the city. Further raising awareness, the Mayor proclaimed November 8th as the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge Day at the City Council Meeting, ensuring the conservation message reached a broad, city-wide audience.

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 existing list of action items has been a clear and helpful roadmap. Moving forward, we would appreciate additional guidance on developing strategies to effectively engage a diverse, multi-generational community in our outreach. We also seek more grant opportunities specifically for converting parkland into crucial pollinator habitat. We also need help to battle the weeds in the butterfly garden and pollinator meadows.

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

We have several notable achievements this year in addition to the data provided above: • Habitat Expansion: We are currently planting more seeds along Brazos River Connector Road, Brazos River Park, and Sugar Land Memorial Park. • Eagle Scout Projects: Three Eagle Scouts successfully completed projects that improved our garden spaces by creating protective fences (against mowers) and installing additional rainwater storage for better garden maintenance. • Expert Partnership: We have continued our successful work with the Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) to tackle small spaces within our community, facilitating an easier, incremental transition to native plants. TMN and Cullinan Park Conservancy are working on establishing an additional pollinator garden (called Nina’s Garden) at Cullinan Park using HEB Pollinator Grant.

Selected Action Items

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).

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

When did this challenge take place?

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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

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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:

11/8/2025

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

1_Scanned - Proclamation.pdf

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_Brazos River Park East Mowing Map 10.2024.pdf

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

4_Brazos River Park West Mowing Map 10.2024.pdf

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

4_Wildflower Map.pdf

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

4_Wildflower Map2.pdf

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

4_Wildflower Seeding Fall 2025.jpg

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

The Community organizations and groups that participated are: City of Sugar Land Parks and Recreation, City of Sugar Land Public Works, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Cullinan Park Conservancy, City of Sugar Land, and Texas Master Naturalists-Coastal Prairie Chapter, Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts.

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 continue to maintain and enhance the pocket prairies that were established in 2024. The City and the Conservancy are working on the Phase III design with a consultant, and plan to enlarge and enhance the existing pocket prairies as well as making them educational components. Several scouts have completed their eagle scout projects to improve the pollinator habitat in parks. Keep Sugar Land Beautiful donated approximately 114 lbs of seed mix. We are learning each year what native flowers like what areas and how to plan better for the future. As described last year, these 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, mowing maps are the same from last year. Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Texas Master Naturalists worked together to transform a roundabout planting bed to a pocket prairie.

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.

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5_Collaborate with TMN for roundabout planting.jpg

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

Collaboration with TMN.jpg

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

Texas Master Naturalist- Coastal Prairie Chapter, Wildlife Habitat Federation, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, Cullinan Park Conservancy, HEB, City of Sugar Land Public Works, and many high school volunteers and other individual volunteers.

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

The City of Sugar Land works closely with the Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) to support monarch and pollinator conservation throughout the community. TMN members regularly coach high school volunteers, assist with ongoing butterfly habitat maintenance, and contribute native seed mixes while helping recruit additional volunteers for restoration projects. Last year, we reported that a major planting effort was underway at a popular roundabout in Sugar Land. Since then, City staff and TMN volunteers collaborated to design and carry out a comprehensive planting plan for the site, which had been underutilized. In October, together we planted 250 native pollinator plants at the roundabout. TMN volunteers have continued to monitor the site and work closely with our Public Works Department to identify best management practices for long-term maintenance. Through these types of collaborations, we have refined mowing maps and seasonal maintenance schedules to better support monarch habitat and attract hundreds of migrating butterflies and other pollinators. Additionally, TMN, the Cullinan Park Conservancy, and the City partnered to apply for another $4,000 H-E-B Pollinator Grant to create an additional pollinator meadow at Cullinan Park. The grant was awarded earlier this year. The Conservancy and the City continue to work together on expanding native plantings at Cullinan Park, further enhancing habitat that benefits monarchs and a variety of other wildlife. (https://www.canva.com/design/DAG4gPVVdGY/7pehkqehA366zH2EkB2SiQ/watch?utm_content=DAG4gPVVdGY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hb918813a58)

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_barrel1.png

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

9_barrel2.JPG

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

9_barrel4.JPG

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

City of Sugar Land Parks and City of Sugar Land Civic Arts

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).

6

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).

Last Year, this project was in the works but is now complete. An artist wrap has been installed on a 300 gallon rain barrel and is now connected to the newly constructed pavilion at the Butterfly Garden. Devona Stimpson, an award-winning artist from our Civic Arts Roster, was chosen for her ability to create visually captivating at pieces that celebrate the beauty of nature. Her design features pollinators like bees and butterflies, with flowing ribbons that represent wind and the balance of our ecosystem. Big picture, this project was also completed with Water Conservation. They have educational signage on the importance in rain water harvesting in our City and how residents can get started at their residential homes!

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

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

4_Cullinan Park Pocket Prairie-2025.jpg

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

5_Butterfly Garden Summer 2025.jpg

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

Collaboration with TMN.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, 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 new pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens 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. The Cullinan Park Conservatory with the aid of Grant money from HEB are able to explain native plants, and pollinantor friendly areas, in the park. 3. Also, located in Cullinan Park, another pollinantor friendly garden was constructed for an Eagle Scout Project. Where the scout worked closely with a TMN to complete. (12414 Hwy 6, Sugar Land, TX 29°38'7.91"N, 95°39'23.33"W)

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

Each year, we partner with community volunteers to maintain and enhance the butterfly garden. This year, Keep Sugar Land Beautiful donated 40 pollinator plants to help increase plant diversity. They also provided wildflower seeds that we are planting both in the garden and along the Connector Road within the park. At Cullinan Park, we continue to collaborate with the Texas Master Naturalists and the Conservancy to establish new pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens. This year the Cullinan Conservancy, supported by HEB grant funding, is expanding native plantings near our birding observatory. This project will enhance the local ecosystem, support increased bird activity, and improve the native plant palette within the park.

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

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

5_Collaborate with TMN for roundabout planting.jpg

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

5_Roundabout prairie planting.jpg

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

It is a roundabout locating mainly in residential area, but roundabout is located in the City's ROW. 29.566581, -95.591407 More information about this roundabout project: https://txmn.org/coastal/volunteer-projects/sugar-land-lone-star-roundabout-prairie-patch/

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

250

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.

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0.1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

This Roundabout is in a transition period right now. Texas Master Naturalist stated that they would help with the establishment of the planting beds and educate Public Works employees on best practices moving forward. The Roundabout is equipped with irrigation. Right now, it is watering 2-3x a month. Once established, the watering will be cut to once a month for regular maintenance.

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_2email attachment 9-21-2025.pdf

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

18_confirmation receipt of survey for Activity 1.pdf

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

18_email attachment 9-21-2025.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).

7

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

Monarch Joint Venture and 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 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.

Cullinan Park Pocket Prairie sign.JPG

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

7

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

They are located at Brazos River Park, Sugar Land Memorial Park, Cullinan Park and Colony Grant HOA.

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