City of Cedar Park

Cedar Park, TX

Mayor James Penniman-Morin

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor James Penniman-Morin	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor James Penniman-Morin	2025	4/8/2025	Signatories
Mayor James Penniman-Morin	2024	12/7/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor James Penniman-Morin	2023	12/16/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Corbin Van Arsdale	2022	12/15/2021	Leadership Circle
Mayor Corbin Van Arsdale	2021	4/23/2021	Leadership Circle

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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.).

7500

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.)

We don't have that level of analytics

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.

150

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.

Right of Ways, Medians, backyards and park preserves.

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

Geographical equity with 7 HOA's and 43 parks spread out over the entire City

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

City Council 2021-2023 Strategic Goals include environmental stewardship and awareness

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?

Educational information and seed packets to give away at special events

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

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We have reached 4,734 FB accounts as well as 241 Instagram and 1,237 Twitter this past year.

Selected Action Items

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Cedar Park has two Community Gardens with active volunteer groups and Master Gardeners. These groups are Monarch Champions and conduct public outreach at quarterly meetings.

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.

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

Nine groups in total - Two City Departments and seven HOA's.

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

Right of Way mowing is deferred during the months of April, May and June in areas of Monarch habitat. Most notably along Blockhouse Drive, our largest area of Monarch habitat.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Seven

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

The City of Cedar Park holds quarterly HOA Breakfast meetings with the intent of providing relevant and timely information (including Monarch preservation) directly to the HOA leadership teams.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Milkweed 1 (2).jpg

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

4

What species were collected or propagated?

Aesclepis viridis

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

Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations Staff

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Parks and Rec Staff collected Millkweed seed pods from the ROW of Blockhouse Drive during the month of June. The pods were collected when mature but not yet fully opened. The pods were seeded at the Discovery Well Cave Preserve which is an area of 106 acres of habitat preserve for endangered species (Rhadine persephone) with very minimal mowing. The photo shows the preserve area with new Milkweed (from previous year) growing along the single track trail.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

Community Gardens at Milburn Park and Veterans Memorial Park

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Project was led by the Community Garden volunteer group and Master Gardeners in the Hill Country Bloomers organization.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

9 acre Park Place Park

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

This task was achieved with our Adopt-a Park Program. The residents in the Park Place neighborhood adopted the park and the City of Cedar Park provided the equipment (Uprooter tool) for the group to remove hundreds of invasive Ligustrum.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

parks for monarchs.jpg

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

2

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

NRPA Parks for Monarchs https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/monarch-butterflies/

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

Signage (Parks for Monarchs) at Community Gardens (2), handouts (with seed packets) at Community events, City Website and Social Media.

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