City of Cedar Park

Cedar Park, TX

Mayor James Penniman-Morin

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2024

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 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.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor James Penniman-Morin	2026	3/30/2026	

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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

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.).

8000

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.)

25

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.

Right of Ways, Medians, backyards and park preserves. We have also added a couple neighborhood parks.

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. Additionally, we have developed habitats older parks in older neighborhoods with historically low income.

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

City council strategic goals for 2024-2026 include environmental stewardship, sustainability and community greening.

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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?

We have implemented new initiatives at 2 of our parks, including Town Center Park and Park Place Park. Initiatives included installation of pollinator gardens and deffered mowing practices.

Selected Action Items

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.

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.

We engaged with the neighbors of Park Place park to plant a pollinator garden at the park. We also worked with a local Girl Scout troop and the Williamson County Native Plant rescue project to plant pollinator plants and milkweed at Town Center park.

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.

Wildflower-Monarch signage (002).jpg

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

We engaged with the Cedar Park, Parks and Recreation Department Maintenance division and the Public Works Department, Streets Division, as well as the Stormwater Management Department.

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

Parks and recreation, along with Public Works, made concerted efforts this year to defer mowing during milkweed season. Additionally, deferred mowing signage has been installed at several city locations including parks, detention ponds and right of ways.

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.

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

We worked with the Williamson County native Plant Rescue, and the Hill Country Bloomers, a local gardening club. Along with our own community garden members.

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

We worked with the Native plant rescue to plant a new pollinator garden at the Recreation Center. We held several gardening classes with our community garden members and the public on the benefits of gardening overall, but also for proper plant identification to avoid spraying or removing healthy and necessary plants. The Hill Country Bloomers participated in our adopt a park program in which they assisted with invasive species removal.

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.

1

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

We worked with the neighbors of Park Place Park to develop a new pollinator garden. We also worked with them to develop a deferred mowing program in a nearby Riparian Zone to re-establish the zone and to allow for milkweed and other native plants to thrive. We also

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established a small "no-mow" zone for the continued development of native wildflowers, pollinator plants and milkweed.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

10

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 Division

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.

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

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

Image (1).jpg

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).

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NRPA Parks for Monarchs https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/conservation/monarch-butterflies/ A new pollinator/milkweed garden was planted by a local girl Scout troop at Town Center park. As a part of this project the group developed the attached educational signage.

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

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

Image (2).jpg

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

The Neighbors of park Place Park, Girl Scout Troop 2349 and the WC Native Plant Resuce

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

25

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We worked with these 3 different groups to develop and plant new pollinator/milkweed beds at Town Center Park and Park Place Park.

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

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

About 10 acres.

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.

We expanded our existing invasive species removal at Park Place Park by expanding the removal into the Riparian Zone that runs through the park. Neighborhood volunteers assisted in the removal of several invasive species including ragweed.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Image (3).jpg

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

Native Plant Rescue

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

September 2024. We developed a no spray policy at near our Recreation Center for newly planted pollinator beds. We also continue to have a no chemical policy at our community gardens.

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