City of Cedar Park

Cedar Park, TX

Mayor James Penniman-Morin

Pledge Summary

Cedar Park is a community of approximately 90,000 residents just north of the City of Austin. The city and its residents are committed to protecting the monarch and pollinator conservation through efforts to engage community members in the education of this important endeavor. Mayor Penniman-Morin is passionate about the conservation of the monarch and the importance of developing outreach and educational programs, installation of pollinator gardens and overall conservation efforts to promote native plants and wildlife.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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 milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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	
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.).

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.)

10

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.

.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.

Right of Way, community gardens

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

The programs created are developed to reach all communities, however several of our summer nature programs include monarch preservation as a part of their curriculum. These programs are specifically marketed to marginalized communities and made available through a local scholarship program so that low income families may participate.

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

Our community and City Council is passionate about the preservation of our natural habitat and it deeply committed to continuing the pledge.

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?

Program and information resources that provide educational opportunities are also most useful.

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

While efforts to add and improve monarch conservation have been very well received. The plant gardens we have established over the last year have been extremely successful. There was a noticeable difference in the amount of monarch butterflies in the area during migration.

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.

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.

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

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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.

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

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

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

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

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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.

Parks and Trails Foundation of Cedar Park Williamson County Plant Rescue

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

We have partnered with the Parks and Trails Foundation to host an annual Earth Day event. One of the signature programs of this event is the City's efforts to improve pollinator habitat throughout its parks, trails and city right of way. We have continued to work win the Wilco Plant rescue to rescue native pollinators and relocate them from construction areas into our parks.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

The event has not occurred yet, but we expect to give away approximately 50-75 pollinator seed packets

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

100

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

Local boy scout group

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.

Image (11).jpg

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

Image (10).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)

Cedar Park Recreation Center

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

Williamson County Native Plant Rescue

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.

0.02

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.

Mural 1.jpg

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

Mural (6) 1.JPG

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

Mural (8).JPG

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

This was a City led initiative with Parks and Recreation

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).

15

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).

A call for entries was announced earlier this year for local artists to submit possible mural ideas that represented Arbor Day and specifically local conservation. After a thorough selection process, one artist was selected to paint a mural that best represented Cedar Park's commitment to conservation and monarch preservation .

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 (12).jpg

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

Neighbors of Park Place Park

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

20

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Worked with neighbors of Park Place Park to develop a monarch/pollinator garden at the park monument sign. City efforts were used to build the garden plot, and the neighbors supplied and planted the plants.

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.

half an acre

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.

Volunteers with the Parks and Trails foundation worked with community members to remove invasive species across multiple park. The plants were removed with uprooting tools, and girdling was used to prepare species like invasive ligustrum for removal.

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

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

Parks and Recreation staff

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

in progress

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

We have stopped using herbicide in community gardens, and pollinator gardens across the city. We expect these efforts to continue, however this initial phase was completed in fall of 2025.

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