City of Topeka

Topeka, KS

Mayor Michelle De La Isla

Pledge Summary

The City of Topeka is the capital city of Kansas, with a population of approximately 126,000 residents. Topeka is supportive of its wild places and the wild animals and plants that depend on those places. Topeka supports conservation of monarchs and other pollinators through a variety of strategies including native restoration at construction or improvement projects, and significant amounts of education and hands-on conservation work through efforts at the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center in Topeka.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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.)

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Mike Padilla	2024	2/7/2024	
Mayor Mike Padilla	2023	3/3/2023	
Mayor Michelle De La Isla	2021	4/23/2021	Signatories

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u646:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

929

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.)

700 youth, 229 adults

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.

2.5

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.

Median strips on roadways, prairie around museum of history, Gage Park in the city

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

Our monarch friendly plant sales, public classes and tagging activities are well marketed to all aspects of the community.

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

To raise awareness of the challenges monarchs face in the wild, and what each person can do to help from their own home, lawn, and garden.

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?

Regular updates on the status of monarch numbers in North America.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u646:v1.14.0.49966]

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

In addition to the numbers shown above, we continue to maintain 13 butterfly gardens in the zoo, will be opening a butterfly pavilion in 2022, and mention monarch conservation in numerous public classes through the year.

Selected Action Items

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

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)

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

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.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u646:v1.14.0.49966]

(e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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?

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).

An annual native wildflower sale that sold 1,984 plants, focusing on milkweeds and monarch friendly plants, but with other natives for pollinators as well. At this sale, much attention is given to the needs of monarchs. 7 free evening classes were conducted for the public on various days of the week and weekend that included a class on monarchs and their migration, followed by a period of catching, tagging, and releasing monarchs. Two separate pubic exhibits in the zoo on monarch life cycle and the migration to educate the over 205,000 guests received each year. A booth on monarchs at our annual Earth Day events at the zoo. All of these activities emphasize and explain to guests and individuals how they can save monarchs by planting milkweeds and nectaring plants for monarchs.

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)

1,984 plants were sold.

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

250

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

None. It was a Topeka Zoo activity.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u646:v1.14.0.49966]

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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).

929

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

Kansas Museum of History - classes conducted in their building and tagging done on the prairies on their grounds.

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

The zoo has conducted monarch classes and tagging each year since 2015. These occur during the monarchs migration through NE Kansas/Topeka each year, typically the last two weeks of September. The program consists of an hour long class/power point on monarchs, followed by catching, tagging, and releasing monarchs on the prairies surrounding the museum. The zoo provides all nets and tags. Since its beginning, the zoo classes have had 5,080 participants and tagged 2,335 monarchs.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u646:v1.14.0.49966]