City of Palm Desert

Palm Desert, CA

Mayor Jan Harnik

Pledge Summary

The City of Palm Desert is a California city nestled in the heart of the Coachella Valley. With a diverse demographic, 362 days of sunshine and a population of approximately 53,000, Palm Desert is home to many beautiful parks, community gardens and other outdoor activities. Palm Desert is also home to The Living Desert Zoo & Botanical Gardens, which puts conservation into action by promoting environmental sustainability, including species preservation of many desert plants and animals, including butterflies. Mayor Jan Harnik of Palm Desert, California has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to continuing the City of Palm Desert's partnership with the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens to engage residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the City.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Evan Trubee	2026	4/29/2026	

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Mayor Jan Harnik	2025	3/11/2025	Signatories
Mayor Karina Quintanilla	2024	3/22/2024	Signatories
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	2023	3/31/2023	Signatories
Mayor Jan Harnik	2022	5/31/2022	Signatories
Mayor Kathleen Kelly	2021	4/26/2021	

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.).

2000

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.)

1000 youth, 1000 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.

1

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.

Parks, medians and other shared public spaces

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

The projects implemented by the City of Palm Desert are open and available to be visited by the entire community.

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

The motivation for the City of Palm Desert is to encourage the protection of pollinators, increase the quality and amount of pollinator habitat and forage, reverse pollinator losses, and help restore pollinator populations to healthy levels.

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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?

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens has been a terrific partner in education and awareness. Making resources available to all regardless of disability, income, and other equity factors by continuing to offer free and accessible programs is a great way to expand equitable engagement.

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

Palm Desert leadership and staff have enjoyed implementing this program over the past year. We look forward to continuing to grow.

Selected Action Items

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:

4/14/2022

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation_City of Palm Desert_2022.pdf

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.)

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

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

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

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

Pollinator Garden Sign FINAL.png

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

New directional signage was added to Palm Desert's Civic Center Park to guide visitors to the Pollinator Garden.

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.

UCR Monarch Mural 2022-10-22 (3).JPG

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

UCR Monarch Mural 2022-10-22 (7).JPG

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

UCR Monarch Mural 2022-10-22 (9).JPG

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

University of California, Riverside, Palm Desert Campus

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).

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200

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 monarch butterfly mural was established on the steps to the school to raise awareness about protection of pollinators in the community.

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)

Pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were installed along San Pablo Avenue (33.732709, -116.382612)

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

50

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.

0.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

This landscaped area is maintained on a weekly basis.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

6

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

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The sign states "The City of Palm Desert has taken the National Wildlife Federation’s 'Mayors’ Monarch Pledge' to do our part to sustain the monarch butterfly population and other pollinators for generations to come. Please visit our pollinator garden and scan the QR code below to learn more." The sign also displays a QR code that links to the City's partner, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, for residents to learn more about native planting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 demonstration garden is located within Civic Center Park, the City's largest park. The garden is along a walking path and has high visibility to passers by and visitors alike. This location aligns with the cultural significance of pollinators because it is in a space in which people intend to experience nature. Location of garden is 43900 San Pablo Avenue, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

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

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The City partnered with The Living Desert Zoo and gardens on the concept of the pollinator garden.

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.

0.03

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