City of Palm Desert

Palm Desert, CA

Mayor Kathleen Kelly

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 Kathleen Kelly 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 2023

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

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

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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.).

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 public buildings.

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.

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

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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?

City Staff, with the support of the Mayor and City Council, will continue to expand pollinator gardens and opportunities to provide information about native planting in the community.

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:

June 8, 2023

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

A Proclamation by the City of Palm Desert Designating the 2023 Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

ASR 1L Renew Mayors' Monarch Pledge.pdf

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

1000

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed and other native species.

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

This was not a community event, but rather an effort to incorporate milkweed and other native plants in various areas throughout the City of Palm Desert for pollinator sustenance and habitat.

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

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The City of Palm Desert planted milkweed and other native plants in various locations throughout the City to provide sustenance and habitat to pollinator species.

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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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 at the heart of the City of Palm Desert. Civic Center Park is one of the most popular parks in the Coachella Valley and is frequented by residents and visitors alike. The garden is located along a walking path and directional signage has been placed throughout the park to make the garden easy to locate.

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

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens collaborated with the City on establishing the pollinator garden at Civic Center Park. Their website is linked on a QR Code that is on a sign at the pollinator garden so community members can learn about how to create a native garden at home.

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.

1

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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.

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

The Palm Desert City Council supported the effort to establish pollinator gardens in the City and has encouraged staff to incorporate native plants that require less watering at public facilities. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens collaborated with the City on establishing the pollinator garden at Civic Center Park. Their website is linked on a QR Code that is on a sign at the pollinator garden so community members can learn about how to create a native garden at home.

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

150

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens collaborated with the City on establishing the pollinator garden at Civic Center Park. Their website is linked on a QR Code that is on a sign at the pollinator garden so community members can learn about how to create a native garden at home.

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