City of Palm Desert

Palm Desert, CA

Mayor Karina Quintanilla

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 Karina Quintanilla 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 2024

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.
- 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.

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

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:

May 9, 2024

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

A Proclamation by the City of Palm Desert Designating the 2024 Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

ASR 9k Res for The National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge renew city's efforts protect enhance pollinator population.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation.pdf

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.

Bench Installation.jpg

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

IMG_0606.jpeg

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

IMG_0607.jpeg

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

IMG_0608.jpeg

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

Palm Desert Cultural Arts Committee

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).

The community art project implemented in Palm Desert for the 2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledge involved the purchase and installation of a park bench made from recycled materials. The bench is fabricated from retired wind turbine parts and pieces, and was installed at Civic Center Park, the City's largest and most popular park. The City's Landscape and Public Art divisions collaborated to release a call for artists to wrap the bench in a vinyl coating to create a public art display. The Palm Desert Cultural Art Committee considered the art entries at its July 10, 2024 meeting. The selected art features a colorful butterfly design was installed on October 28, 2024.

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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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)

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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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