City of Palm Desert

Palm Desert, CA

Mayor Jan Harnik

Pledge Summary

The City of Palm Desert, located in the heart of California's Coachella Valley, is a vibrant community known for its diverse population, 365 days of sunshine, and a population of approximately 53,000. Palm Desert offers a wealth of outdoor activities, including beautiful parks, community gardens, and other recreational spaces. It is also home to The Living Desert Zoo & Botanical Gardens, a leader in environmental sustainability and species conservation, including the preservation of desert plants and animals, such as butterflies. Mayor Jan Harnik of Palm Desert has committed to protecting the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. She looks forward to continuing the City's partnership with The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens to engage residents in creating additional pollinator habitats across the city.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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 8, 2025

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

A Proclamation by the City of Palm Desert Designating the 2025 Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

13j Update on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and Pollinator Week.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.

IMG_3049.jpeg

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

PAR bench damage (1) 6-2-2025.jpeg

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

PAR bench damage 6-2-2025.jpeg

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

Wrapped Par Bench.jpg

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

Palm Desert Cultural Arts Committee (includes one liaison from the City Council)

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 2024 Mayors' Monarch Pledge community art project in Palm Desert centered on installing a park bench made from recycled wind turbine parts at Civic Center Park. The City's Landscape and Public Art divisions issued a call for artists, and the Cultural Arts Committee selected a vibrant butterfly-themed vinyl wrap, which was installed on October 28, 2024. After the bench was found to have been damaged in June 2025, our Special Programs Division promptly repaired and re-wrapped it, demonstrating the City's commitment not only to creating meaningful public art projects but also to maintaining them.

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.

IMG_2224.jpeg

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

IMG_2226.jpeg

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

IMG_2243.jpeg

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

Image.jpeg

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

IMG_0492.jpeg

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

IMG_0494.jpeg

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

IMG_0495.jpeg

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

Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

pollinator garden sign cc.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)

Demonstrating its commitment to monarch butterfly conservation, the City planted milkweed in strategic locations, including the entryway to the Council Chamber. Recently, several monarch larvae were spotted on these plants—an encouraging sign of the program's success. Over the next nine to fourteen days, these caterpillars will undergo metamorphosis, helping increase the monarch population throughout Palm Desert. Later this year, the new Asclepias plantings near the Guadalupe Community Gardens thrived—and they are already attracting a variety of pollinators. Bees are actively visiting the sages, and monarchs are taking advantage of the milkweed, further supporting our Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

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

N/A

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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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