City of Hillsboro, Oregon

Hillsboro, OR

Mayor Steve Callaway

Pledge Summary

Among other related commitments, Hillsboro is a US Conference of Mayors' climate champion, Tree City USA, Bee City USA and partner in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program. The NWF Monarch Pledge is the latest way that Hillsboro has demonstrated its commitment to the conservation of nature and wildlife. Nestled in the Tualatin Valley of western Oregon, Hillsboro is Oregon's 5th largest city with just over 100,000 community members. Known for its diverse community, strong local economy, and beautiful natural areas, for decades Hillsboro's leaders have placed an emphasis on environmental stewardship. Strong goals and actions guide stewardship efforts for both the city organization, which provides a full suite of municipal services, and for the greater community. Hillsboro prides itself as having one of the largest preserved natural areas within the community, the several-hundred acre Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, along with myriad other natural areas, parks and environmental assets.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Beach Pace	2025	3/21/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Callaway	2024	12/8/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Callaway	2023	12/13/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Callaway	2022	5/17/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Steve Callaway	2021	4/27/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

535

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.)

210 youth and 325 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.

4.44

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.

Within our two largest natural areas, our 600+ acre wetland Preserve, and our 44-acre natural area

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

This year, staff developed free outreach activities focused on monarch education and engaged the community in a variety locations throughout Hillsboro, including libraries,

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

parks, and outdoor recreation areas near high density housing. Youth were provided Spanish/English take home craft kits.

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

We had made commitments to the Bee City USA, Tree City USA and other related programs, and the Pledge helps us focus on actions to support pollinators and their critical importance, in particular butterflies and the role they play in our natural systems. It also helps us to educate our community about milkweed and other important vegetation that sustains wildlife

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?

Having the structure to focus our efforts has been helpful.

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

Preparing a site to be planted with monarch friendly plants and purchasing seed is very expensive, so only a few acres were planted this year. More acres will be planted next years and we hope to build on our successes.

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 15, 2021

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Week in Hillsboro

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proc - 2021.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

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

20211117_160152.jpg

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

20211117_153215.jpg

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

20211117_153334.jpg

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

20211112_103527.jpg

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

20211112_113822.jpg

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

Planter12-21.jpg

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

Sonrise Planter.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

In 2021 over 50 community garden volunteers and Tualatin Valley, Aloha, and Sonrise Garden Clubs worked together to create sustainable, environmentally-friendly, pollinator-friendly planters at the garden to attract and feed our pollinator friends – specifically monarch butterflies and bees. The goal was attained through a Hügelculture (Hügelkultur) planter with native and non-native pollinators. All of the 60’ long planters are set up as a Hügelculture: having small rotting wood pieces in the bottom, covered with branches, topped with a mixture of wood mulch and compost. The perennial plants will grow their roots toward the water reserves inside the wood. This will help to lessen water needs for long time. Once the wood deteriorates (4-7years), plant roots will be nourished with micronutrients and water. This thousands-year-old Hügelculture technique will need little to

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

no water and attracts pollinators. Plants planted include: Oregon Milkweed narrow leaves (Asclepias fascicularis), Common Milkweed, Liatris (Liatris aspera), May Night Salvia (Salvia sylvestris), Siberian Wallflower (Cheiranthus allionii), Verbena (Verbena bonariensis), Anise Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum), Agastache hybrida, Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm (Monarda fistulosa), Pineapple sage (Lamiaceae). Volunteer Project Leader quote: “The outcome is a masterpiece of collaboration, teamwork, and the successful implementation of our common goal: the pollinator friendly, sustainable community.”

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

400

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

The City of Hillsboro is continuing to treat multiple invasive species across many natural areas and nature parks, which total more than 400 acres. The primary techniques of removing invasive species is mechanical removal (i.e., mowing, hand pulling) or herbicide treatment, depending on the species that are present onsite. Many of these areas have been or are in the process of being seeded and/or planted with pollinator friendly plants. Once the area has been planted we will continue to keep the invasive species are under control. One of these area is Orenco Woods where we removed invasive species over multiple years and just seeded it with a monarch friendly seed mix. The city has 300+ volunteers in 2021 helping to remove invasive species and plant native flowering plants.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

0

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

The City has developed a monarch educational sign that is going to be installed in the pollinator garden at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and Orenco Woods Nature Park. These signs were made in house by the cities graphic designer and describes the monarchs life history, migration pattern, species status/decline, and beneficial plants species the monarch uses.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Internal review.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/departments/community-development/codes-standards/comprehensive-plan;
https://library.qcode.us/lib/hillsboro_or/pub/municipal_code/item/chapter_12;
https://www.oregonmetro.gov/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Milkweed has never been listed as a noxious weed in any City plans, policies or procedures. The City's Community Development Code (CDC) generally does not reference specific plant species except under the Tree Preservation standards. The Landscaping Standard of 12.50.220 prohibits “nuisance” plants in required landscaping areas, and references Definitions, which then references the Metro’s Native Plant List – see links below. We read the prohibition on “nuisance” plants to include both those on the Nuisance Plant List (p 19-21 on Metro list) and Prohibited Plant List (p 21). The definition from our CDC: Nuisance Plants. Plants which are both invasive and non-native. Nuisance plants are identified and listed on Metro’s Nuisance Plant List. Comprehensive Plan: These are general policies and do not get into the specifics of plant species. Public Works Design and Constriction Standards do not include milkweed and to our knowledge never have. Our Parks & Recreation Department also do not list milkweed as a noxious plant in their guidance documents, which includes the Clean Water Services references.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Community pollinator expert advocates, other interested community members.

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

Bee City USA, Tree City USA, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, multiple grants to create pollinator friendly natural areas through invasive species removal and native plantings. https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/community/sustainability/bee-city-usa; https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/our-city/hillsboro-major-projects/tree-city-usa; https://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13104/.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

Local dark sky experts and advocates.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

In progress.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

The City has taken action over the past five years to retrofit nearly all non-dark sky compliance outdoor lighting, and continues to budget annually to complete this work. Next in line is the stadium lighting at our baseball and football stadiums. We have also led the region to establish standards for street lighting color temperature and design to emphasize dark sky friendly street lighting. The City's Community Development Code does require dark sky compliant lighting in new construction.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

20210818_122219.jpg

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

20211117_160453.jpg

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

20211122_155039.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

20211122_155101.jpg

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

20211122_160209.jpg

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

0

What species were collected or propagated?

Asclepias speciosa.

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

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve staff.

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

In 2021 Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve collected 4 pounds of showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) seed and seeded it around Pintail Pond in Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, where there currently are no milkweed plants. Jackson Bottom staff collected, cleaned, and distributed all the milkweed seeded, this process was not open to the public this year. In future years we hope to have volunteer events to collect and clean the seed.

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)

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve: significant to Monarchs because this is the City's premiere nature center where people visit from near and far to participate in nature-based education. It is also a key migratory site. Orenco Woods Nature Park: this park is highly visited and the Monarch Way Station will be highly visible for educating the public.

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

None.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

1.55

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u534:v1.14.0.49966]