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 Hillsboro community has demonstrated its commitment to the conservation of nature and wildlife, including the Monarch butterfly. Nestled in the Tualatin Valley of western Oregon, Hillsboro is Oregon's 5th largest city with 108,000 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 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.
- 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.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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.).

2327

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.)

1236 youth and 1091 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.

5.2

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.

Community gardens, parks, and natural areas

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

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

The City of Hillsboro has commitments to the Bee City USA, Tree City USA and other related programs, and the Monarch Pledge helps us focus on the importance of pollinators and 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 plant species 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?

The thing that would be the most helpful for participating in the Monarch Pledge is a list of grants or funding resources to allow the City of Hillsboro to expand education programs or restoration projects for pollinators.

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

We are working on getting dedicated funding for the Monarch Pledge and Bee City USA to be able to do more work around pollinators throughout the City.

Selected Action Items

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.)

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

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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

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

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?

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Audubon Society

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

Bee City USA, Tree City USA, Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

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

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

In 2023, the City of Hillsboro had over 50 work parties participating in maintaining community gardens, learning about how to create sustainable garden plots without using pesticides, and how to incorporate nectar-producing plants within the gardens. Volunteers contributed over 1,085 hours to these work parties, which included planting pollinator-friendly plants along the boarders and edges of the gardens.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes 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.

Pollinator_1.jpeg

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

Pollinator_3.jpeg

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

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Pollinator_2.JPG

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

Pollinator_5.jpeg

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

Pollinator_4.jpeg

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

Pollinator_6.JPG

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

275

What was the date of your festival?

6/24/2023

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

Friends of Trees

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Jackson Bottom Wetlands celebrated our fifth annual "Pollinator and Monarch Week", where staff did outreach, education, and crafts that celebrated all things pollinators, including honey tasting, a live beehive, and so much more.

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:

6/6/2023

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

MAYOR'S POLLINATOR AND MONARCH AWARNESS WEEK

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Pollinator and Monarch Proclamation.pdf

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

28

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?

Japanese Community Day Volunteer Event

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

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve hosts an annual Japanese Community Day volunteer event where we had volunteers collect and spread showy milkweed seed. In 2023, volunteers collected 2.8 pounds of showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) seed and seeded it around other sections of the preserve to create multiple patches. Along with the seed, showy milkweed plugs and common camas bulbs were planted.

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)

Monarch and pollinator-friendly gardens are located at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Nature Center (2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro OR 97123) and Orenco Woods Nature Park. Jackson Bottom is the epicenter of nature education and outreach that hosts multiple large community events each year to raise awareness about pollinators, monarchs, and native plants. Additionally, we receive thousands of visitors each year that tour our pollinator gardens and Back Yard Habitat certified garden. In 2023, Jackson Bottom planted 1,000 large Asclepias speciosa plugs and 5,000 common/great camas bulbs in our pollinator garden.

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

City of Hillsboro

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

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Plants for Pollinators 092-2436-05B-16118.JPG

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

MonarchButterfly.pdf

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

1

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

In addition to our monarch sign at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, we have added a "Plants for Pollinators" sign in our pollinator garden.

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.

Sunflower Wall 3.jpg

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

Raised Bed Later.jpg

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

Sonrise Front Entrance 1.jpg

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

SR Bee Houses and Plants.jpg

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

Multiple community garden groups, schools, and scout groups

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

324

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

In 2023, the City of Hillsboro had multiple events at community gardens that engaged with gardeners and the public, teaching them about the importance of milkweed and nectar-producing plants. Multiple community garden groups and volunteers worked together to create sustainable, environmentally friendly pollinator habitats within the gardens to attract and feed pollinators, specifically monarch butterflies and bees. Within our community garden, multiple projects occurred specifically to add pollinator habitats, including, 1) The Eagle Scout project at David Hill Community Garden installed pollinator planters that are filled with pollinator-attracting plants. In addition to attracting our much-needed pollinators, they provide some additional beauty around the garden perimeter. 2) City View students also planted sunflower seedlings along a garden wall that have grown throughout the season, providing food for pollinators and birds in the garden. The sunflower wall also serves as a beautiful focal point at the front of the garden. 3) Our new Little Sprouts Garden workshop focused on pollinators and the important role they play in our gardens. The program included garden planting at our Orenco garden; garden walks with pollinator observations and pollinator-focused art activities. Additionally, we have our recently replanted pollinator planter across the front of Sonrise, and our Little Scouts just added more pollinator plants to their most recent planting at Sonrise Garden. 4) Bee house installation at David Hill Community Garden by second-grade students from City View Charter School. Students built and worked with Hillsboro Parks & Recreation staff to install mason bee houses on garden fencing. 5) Pollinator garden planting at Orenco Community Garden by second-grade students from City View Charter School. These students planted a garden of annual and perennial pollinator plants. The area provides the plants to attract pollinators and serves as a gathering space for our gardeners. 6) Second-grade students from City View Charter School planted annual and perennial plans as part of a pollinator garden project in the area immediately surrounding the Girl Scouts' mason bee houses and in a raised bed in the same vicinity. This area previously only served to hold amendments but now helps to attract, feed, and house pollinators and provide some beauty to the garden entrance. Additional educational signage will accompany the space.

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

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

Planting Event 1.jpg

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

Planting Event 2.jpg

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

600+ acres

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 annually treats invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canary grass across multiple natural areas and nature parks. Once the invasive species are removed, the areas are planted with a diverse mix of flowering native trees and shrubs that benefit pollinators. The major natural areas and nature parks that are treated for invasive species within the City of Hillsboro are Jackson Bottom Wetlands, Orenco Woods Nature Park, and Rood Bridge Park. The primary technique of removing invasive species is mechanical removal (i.e., mowing, hand pulling) or herbicide treatment, depending on the invasive species present onsite. Many of these areas are in the process of being seeded and planted with pollinator-friendly plants. Each year, the City hosts three community volunteer planting events where volunteers install over 4,000 native plants within natural areas that benefit pollinators. This year, over 450 volunteers participated in these events.

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