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 a partner in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program. The Hillsboro community has demonstrated its commitment to conserving nature and wildlife, including the Monarch butterfly. Nestled in the Tualatin Valley of western Oregon, Hillsboro is Oregon's 6th largest city with 108,000 community members. Known for its diverse community, strong local economy, and beautiful natural areas, Hillsboro's leaders have emphasized environmental stewardship for decades. Strong goals and actions guide stewardship efforts for the city organization, which provides a full suite of municipal services and the greater community. Hillsboro prides itself on 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 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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the 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.
- 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

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awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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.).

2871

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.)

1626

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.

3.5

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

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

Each year, staff develop free outreach activities focused on monarch and pollinator education and engage the community in a variety of 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 Mayors' 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?

A list of grants, funding resources, and potential partner organizations would be the most helpful resources to support the City of Hillsboro expanding education programs or restoration projects for pollinators.

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

We continue to advocate for dedicated funding for the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and Bee City USA ensuring that more work around pollinators can be accomplished throughout the City of Hillsboro.

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:

6/16/2024

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

MAYOR'S POLLINATOR AND MONARCH AWARNESS WEEK

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2024 Pollinator Proclamation_signed.pdf

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

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

DH Planters Planting 1.jpg

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

Tamarack 1.jpg

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

Tamarack 3.jpg

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

In 2024, the City of Hillsboro had over 55 work parties participating in maintaining community gardens, encouraging community members to learn about how to create sustainable garden plots without using pesticides, and how to incorporate nectar-producing plants within the gardens. Volunteers contributed over 1,020 hours to these work parties, which included planting pollinator friendly plants along the borders and edges of the gardens. In addition, Girl Scouts helped plant pollinator planters at community garden sites, creating safe spaces for our pollinator friends while local school groups helped plant and tend to several pollinator demonstration plots in the community garden common areas.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

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

MLKDayofService_HCCC_005.jpg resized.jpg

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

MLKDayofService_HCCC_110.jpgresized .jpg

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How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Throughout the year, the Volunteer Services Coordinator led hundreds of individuals and local group organizations in planting events throughout the City of Hillsboro. Local Scout groups, Church groups, and organizations like the Hillsboro Rotary Club all took part in lending a hand expanding the milkweed/native nectar plantings in community areas.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

Efforts continue around supporting the “no mow May” initiatives in areas where mowing maintenance can be decreased to support pollinators. With lower staff numbers, volunteers and grant funds for planting programs remain critical in accomplishing goals.

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.

JCD_2024_Group Photo 5.jpg

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

JCD_2024_Planting Photo 1.jpg

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

JCD_2024_Planting Photo 2.jpg

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

22

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 (Dynic USA Corporation and Tokyo Electron America, Friends of Trees, and Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve Non-profit).

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

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Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve hosts an annual Japanese Community Day volunteer event where we had volunteers collect and spread showy milkweed seed. In 2024, 22 volunteers collected 3.4 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.

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

JB Pollinator Garden.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)

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 2024, Jackson Bottom planted 500 large Asclepias speciosa plugs and 1,500 common/great camas bulbs in our pollinator garden. In 2024, staff were successful in securing 102 pollinator plants as part of the Oregon Habitat Kit Program supported by Xerces. The habitat kit was used to improve pollinator habitat along the edge of the main parking lot and bioswale at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, providing improved connectivity to our upland gardens and adjacent wetland trails and natural areas. Additionally, this improvement will serve as tool to educate visitors and will also support our efforts to continue as an active Bee City USA and Mayor's Monarch Pledge affiliate.

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

Xerces

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

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e.,

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National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Certified Backyard Habitat_2024.jpg

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

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon), Friends of Trees, Tualatin Riverkeepers

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

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.

Sonrise Front Entrance 1.jpg

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

SR Pollinator Planter 24.jpg

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

SR New Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

Sonrise Zinnias.jpg

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

DH Dragonfly.jpg

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

SR Bee Pic 2.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)

420

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

In 2024, 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, several projects occurred specifically to add pollinator habitats, including, 1) Girl Scouts planted nectar producing plants in the pollinator planters at the David Hill Community Garden. In addition to attracting our much-needed pollinators, they provide some additional beauty around the garden perimeter. 2) Tamarack Elementary School students 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 Sonrise Community Garden. 3) Little Sprouts, our early childhood learning program, was held at the Orenco and Sonrise Community Garden sites several times this year. The program included garden planting at both gardens, garden walks with pollinator observations, and pollinator-focused art activities. 4) Girls Scout made several bee house kits to give away at garden gatherings and during pollinator week activities.

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.

REI Community Stewardship Planting Event_2024 .jpg

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

FOT_ Communty Stewardship Planting Event_Family_2024.jpg

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

FOT_Community Stewardship Planting Event_Family3_2024.jpg

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

FOT_Community Stewardship Planting Event_Kiddos_2024.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. In 2024, the City of Hillsboro hosted five community volunteer planting events where volunteers installed over 7,000 native plants within natural areas that benefit pollinators. This year, over 624 volunteers participated in these events.

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.

SR Earth Day 2.jpg

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

SR Earth Day 5.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)

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1041

What was the date of your festival?

6/17/2024 – 6/24/2024

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

Girl Scouts, City of Hillsboro Brookwood Library

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 sixth annual "Pollinator and Monarch Week", where staff provided outreach, education, and crafts that celebrated all things pollinator, including self-guided pollinator tours of the demonstration gardens, family friendly pollinator bingo, and free seed kits. This year our monarch butterfly and pollinator outreach efforts also mobilized to local parks and libraries.

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 Sign_2024.jpg

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

Monarch Sign_2024.jpg

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

Pollinator Habitat Signs_2024.jpg

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

Leave the Leaves Signs_2024.jpg

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

DH Pollinator Area 2.jpg

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

DH Pollinator Area 3.jpg

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

6

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", “Leave the Leaves” signs, and “Pollinator Habitat” (English and Spanish) signs in our pollinator demonstration gardens and David Hill Community Gardens.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Cherry Trees_Orchard Park.jpg

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

Hillsboro Downtown Partnership, Friends of Trees, City of Hillsboro department representatives serving on the Environmental Technical Committee

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 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.

NA

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

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We continue to advocate for dedicated funding for the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and Bee City USA ensuring that more work around pollinators can be accomplished throughout the City of Hillsboro. The City of Hillsboro's Environmental Technical Committee will be the forum in which multiple departments can work together to update municipal planting ordinances by January 2026, with the goal of providing clearer pathways to supporting more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants throughout City of Hillsboro properties.

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