City of Hillsboro, Oregon

Hillsboro, OR

Mayor Beach Pace

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 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.
- 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

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

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- 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.).

4732

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.)

1777

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

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, staff develop free outreach activities and community events focused on monarch and pollinator education, engaging 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 and are encouraged to participate in stewardship opportunities.

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:

6/3/2025

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

MAYOR'S POLLINATOR AND MONARCH AWARNESS WEEK

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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PROC - Pollinator Proclamation 2025.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.

Troop 60613-David Hill Bulb planting 2.jpg

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

Troop 60613-David Hill Bulb planting 3.jpeg

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

Troop 60613-David Hill Bulb planting.jpeg

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

In 2025, the City of Hillsboro had 36 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 538 hours to these work parties, which included planting pollinator-friendly plants along the borders and edges of the gardens. In addition, Girl Scout Troop 60613 planted roughly three dozen spring-blooming bulbs at David Hill Community garden. The bulbs were planted in a previously bare spot to brighten up the space while providing a safe space for our pollinator friends.

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.

JCD_2025_Event Intro.jpg

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 Intel all took part in lending a hand expanding the milkweed/native nectar plantings in community areas.

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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.

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

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

Seed Swap_2025.jpg

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

500+ seed packets and 325 plant starts

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

117

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

Local businesses have been huge supporters of Hillsboro’s efforts to improve pollinator habitat through generous donations of seeds, plant starts, and even coffee grounds for composting! This year Fred Meyer donated over 500 seed packets which were distributed to community members in the Hillsboro Community Gardens Program and used to support pollinator focused projects. Insomnia Coffee Co. graciously offered up used coffee grounds for composting and also served as the location for two seed swap events for community members. Hillsboro High School students donated over 325 plant starts that they grew from seeds in their Life Skills class, which were used to enhance pollinator habitat at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, several City of Hillsboro park locations, and three of Hillsboro’s Community Gardens Program sites.

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_2025_Group Photo2.jpg

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

JCD_2025_Planting Fun.jpg

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

25

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.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve hosts an annual Japanese Community Day volunteer event where we had volunteers collect and spread showy milkweed seed. In 2025, 25 volunteers collected 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, 2,000 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.

Ron Bee TT6.jpg

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

Heart Rock in Garden Plot .jpg

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

PP18.jpg

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

PP19.jpg

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

PP23.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 efforts, honoring National Pollinator Week each year with self-guided pollinator plant walks, a scavenger hunt, take-home crafts and activities, and a special pollinator exhibit in the Nature Center exhibit hall. This year, the program proved so popular that it was extended for the remainder of the summer, engaging 3,742 community members. Staff also led a variety of classes and outreach events encouraging 633 participants of all ages and abilities to celebrate pollinators, monarchs, and native plants. Additionally, Jackson Bottom receives thousands of visitors each year that tour the pollinator gardens and Back Yard Habitat certified garden located next to the Nature Center.

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., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Nature Invaders Community Partners - 2.jpg

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

Nature Invaders Community Partners - FOT1.jpg

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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?

Our first Nature Invaders event was a hit! Community partners (Oregon Department of Forestry, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Trees, and City of Hillsboro Brookwood Library) joined us for a day focusing on invasive species of the Pacific Northwest. Many activities and displays highlighted the destructive work of the emerald ash borer beetle and provided education on native plant species as well as stewardship suggestions for community members interested in taking part in wildlife and habitat conservation efforts. The event featured a scavenger hunt through the pollinator garden, games, and the debut of an original illustrated story created in partnership between the City of Hillsboro's wildlife restoration biologist and a local artist.

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.

DH calendula.jpg

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

DH Elizabeth's pollinator garden.jpg

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

DH Planters Bee.jpg

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

insectary sign.jpg

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

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Multiple community garden groups assisted with the maintenance and expansion of nectar producing plants throughout our community garden sites, including Washington County Master Gardeners, students from Quatama and Tamarack Elementary School, local Girl Scout troops, and Tualatin Valley Garden Club.

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

400

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

In 2025, 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. Gardeners at each of the three Hillsboro Community Gardens Program sites are encouraged to leave plant stems and woody debris for overwintering habitat for insects along with seed heads for birds. All gardeners are required are required to mulch their plot with leaves in the fall, which also provides habitat for overwintering insects. The David Hill Community Gardens Program site prioritizes a 30 square foot area to pollinator plants in the garden. Plants include Calendula, Phacelia, Echinacea, Anise Hyssop, Scarlet Runner Bean, Cosmos sulphureous, Fava Bean, Veronica, Native Tarweed, Lavender, Verbascum, Sedum, Cardoon, Crocosmia, Giant scabious, Sunflowers, and California poppy.

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.

MLK Volunteer Event_2025.JPG

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

Volunteer Event_Rood Bridge.JPG

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

Volunteers Wheelbarrow_Rood Bridge Parks.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

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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 2025, the City of Hillsboro hosted four community volunteer planting events Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve where 215 volunteers installed over 10,000 native plants, 600 large stock trees, and dispersed 50 pounds of pollinator specific flowering seed mix within natural areas.

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_2025.jpg

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

Pollinator Habitat Signs_2025.jpg

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

Monarch Sign_2025.jpg

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

Leave the Leaves Signs_2025.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 maintain "Plants for Pollinators", “Leave the Leaves” signs, and “Pollinator Habitat” (English and Spanish)

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signs in our pollinator demonstration gardens and David Hill Community Garden.

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.

Orenco Woods Nature Park_Native Planting Bed.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.

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

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