City of League City

League City, TX

Mayor Pat Hallisey

Pledge Summary

League City is a waterfront community nestled along the shores of Clear Creek in Galveston County, Texas with a 2021 population of approximately 110,467. It is located in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area with close proximity to Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. League City is home to the South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center, Butler Longhorn Museum, and two regional parks (Challenger 7 Memorial Park and Walter Hall Park). Additionally, there are 15 City parks, including the 148 acre Clear Creek Nature Center. The City is part of the Great Texas Birding Trail with three birding sites on the Clear Lake Loop. League City has begun efforts to save our State insect, the Monarch Butterfly, and other pollinators by signing the pledge, as well as becoming a Bee City USA affiliate, to encourage our citizens to provide pollinators with a healthy habitat throughout the City.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- 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 Nick Long	2026	1/22/2026	
Mayor Nick Long	2025	3/25/2025	Signatories
Mayor Nick Long	2024	2/19/2024	Signatories
Mayor Nick Long	2023	2/23/2023	Signatories
Mayor Pat Hallisey	2021	4/29/2021	

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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

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).

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.

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Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

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)

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

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

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How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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

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

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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.

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)

What was the date of your festival?

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

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).

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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

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

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below.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

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

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.

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

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

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

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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.

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

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:

April 13, 2021

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Pledge minutes, text file, proclamation.pdf

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.

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

Nature Center 3 groups. League City Garden Club; U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Baytown, Texas. League City Parks Department. WaterSmart Park 5 groups: League City, Texas SeaGrant, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality WaterSmart Park is located at 1810 Louisiana Avenue, League City, TX.

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

Nature Center: Garden Club: Cleaned out and revitalized gardens and replanted as necessary. Dept of Agriculture donated plants. Parks Department: mowing; garden maintenance. WaterSmart Park: League City: provided work crews and maintenance.

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Concept and design of park: Texas SeaGrant, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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.

12.docx

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)

Dr. Ned and Fay Dudney Nature Center, 1220 Egret Bay Blvd. N. In May 2015, the Pollinator Health Task force outlined its strategies to restore stressed bee and Monarch populations by creating more Milkweed buffers for traveling Monarchs. The Nature Center lies within the two-way migratory path from Mexico to Canada and back for the Monarch Butterflies. The Monarch waystation was constructed to provide the necessary habitat for 5 generations of Monarchs necessary to make the annual trip and provides an educational opportunity for Nature Center Visitors. The optimum location was an area adjacent to the pavilion and also the former coastal prairie habitat. Restoration of a portion of the coastal prairie habitat with native grassland and wildflowers is on going. See item 20. travelling Monarchs.

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

League City Garden Club; U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Baytown, Texas; League City Parks Department. In 2021, more than 50 milkweed, mulberry, Carolina wolfberry, and coral bean plants were planted in the two gardens

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.

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Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

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Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

League City Parkway just east of State Highway 3, League City, TX 77573. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQJQJJcaxdI

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

30

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

20 pounds of pollinator essential mix seeds and 10 pounds of Native Texas mix seeds were planted on an area just over one acre in size.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Planting occurred in November 2021. Mowing of the site will be halted until the wildflowers bloom and set seeds for next year's flowers.

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.

16.docx

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

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Regional Grant Program. Additional funding was provided by the City of League City, Galveston County, and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program. Audubon.org; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Texas-New Mexico Power donated trees to be given away

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

1.Revision of tree ordinance to include tree preservation, mitigation for protected trees removed, maintenance standards, offences and restitution for removal of any tree without a

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permithttps://www.leaguecitytx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25176/Unified-Development-Code; 2. Formation of a committee (Keep League City Beautiful) that meets monthly to assist with plans. 3. Holding a day long Ecofest and Arbor Day celebration at a city park with eco-friendly vendors, activities, classes, and give away of over 250 trees donated by Texas-New Mexico Power https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/29341/city-managers-update-9-24-21?bidId= ; 4.Participation in Big Sit and Big Day https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/27679/city-managers-update-5-14-21 https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/3827/Participate-in-October-Big-Day-2020; 5. Creation of an online birding blog. https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/3683/Top-Five-Early-Birds 6. Convention and Visitors Bureau adding birding info and Birding guide https://www.leaguecitycvb.com/birding 7. Began virtual and in person birding classes during spring and fall migration https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/3886/Bay-Area-Birding-Classes; https://www.leaguecitytx.gov/3896/Fall-2021-Birdwatching-Classes-Trips

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.

20.docx

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

11 acres at the Nature Center

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.

11 acres were mechanically cleared and replanted with native wildflowers and prairie grasses in spring of 2020. first mowing took place in October 2020. In the spring of 2021, area inspected to determine if the February 2021 freeze had damaged any of the area. It was determined that there was no damage. an annual mowing strategy helps maintain native prairie grasses and reduces the encroachment of invasive species. The League City Parks Department, in consultation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will determine the most appropriate time for future mowing as many birds and other animals depend on the grassland habitat not only for nesting but for food and refuge.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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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).

Monarch Flyway information, description of Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens and why they are important at the Dr. Ned and Fay Dudney Clear Creek Nature Center. (3 signs) Description of raingardens and how native plants help pollinators at the Ghirardi Family Watersmart Park. (3 signs)

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

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

23.docx

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

League City Parks Department, Public Works Department, and City Arborist

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.

City does not have a noxious plant list.

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

See above.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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24.docx

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

League City Parks Department; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Department

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.

No ordinances regarding weed or mowing.

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

See above.

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

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

29.docx

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

Ordinance Change 2019-21 received recommended approval from Planning & Zoning Commission and was approved by the City Council

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

completed

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.

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Ordinance 2019-21 received final approval on August 21, 2019. Chapter 125-Article IV-Sec. 4.8 Lighting https://library.municode.com/tx/league_city/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH125UNDECO_ARTIVSIDEST

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

completed

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