City of Cuero

Cuero, TX

Mayor Sara Post Meyer

Pledge Summary

Cuero, Texas is a community of approximately 8000; located in South Central Texas, and proud of its heritage, its history, and it hospitality. Once the community was informed of the decline of the Monarch population, citizens began planting pollinator plants in private places. Students at schools studied the monarch through Cuero and prepared posters sharing facts about butterflies, monarch's in particular. Students also built a native gardens at schools to help migration. As Mayor of Cuero, I encourage citizens to plant natives and pollinator plants in their gardens. I, as Mayor, have signed the Monarch Pledge for the past several years.

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.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Sara Post Meyer	2024	3/15/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sara Post Meyer	2023	3/28/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sara Post Meyer	2022	1/31/2022	Signatories
Mayor Sara Post Meyer	2021	4/29/2021	Signatories

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.).

4000

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.)

250

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

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.

Residences, public parks (5 acres adjacent to little league fields and airport air strip), public walkways, elementary school

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

All materials (plants, seeds, signs) are free to all citizens; flyers about events available at churches, community food bank, and public bulletin boards.

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

Our community's motivation is due to location, location, location as Cuero sits on a major monarch flyway. With the monarch numbers declining, it's important to provide food, water, protective areas for the monarchs.

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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?

Sources for free plants or seed supplies.

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

Our area of Texas is experiencing a major drought since mid July so our community's efforts to provide water and food sources for the monarchs were even more important. The number of citizens interested in the conservation efforts is increasing. The excitement of the students in their monarch friendly activities is contagious!

Selected Action Items

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?

Keep Cuero Beautiful

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

40

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed planted in flower beds adjacent to Cuero Public Library, Cuero Police Department, and Main St Walkway, a new corridor from a RR parking lot to Main St shopping.

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:

March 2024

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

Monarch Day

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation 2024.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.

KCB member hands info on native plants along with wildflower seed balls to local citizen at Cuero Farmers Market..jpg

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

KCB provide planting natives and milkweed info at its booth at Cuero Farmers Market..jpg

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

Keep Cuero Beautiful encourages the public to plant natives, milkweed, and other pollinators at the monthly local farmers market. In addition KCB hosts a yearly educational program for the public to learn more about native plants, herbs, wildflowers.

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.

Monarch enjoying milkweed in local citizen’s garden.jpg

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

Keep Cuero Beautiful, Tree Board, 4 H, City Parks department

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

The City Parks department continues its mowing programs for public places recognizing the spring and early summer are times pollinators are busy.

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

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where appropriate.

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

Newly planted natives by KCB with help from City Main St, Parks Dept, and Fire Dept members at the Cuero Post Office. 1.jpg

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

Newly planted natives by KCB with help from City Main St, Parks Dept, and Fire Dept members at the Cuero Post Office. 2.jpg

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

Keep Cuero Beautiful, 4 H

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.

12/30/2024

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.

IMG_0264.jpg

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

IMG_0297.jpg

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

IMG_0304.jpg

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

250

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

40

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

keep Cuero Beautiful, Cuero Environmental Services department, Tx Disposal Systems, Gonzales Mushroom farm

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.)

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

Monarch FB Post March 2024.PNG

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

Posters made by 4th graders identifying a problem area for littered then developing a solution. 1.jpg

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

Posters made by 4th graders identifying a problem area for littered then developing a solution. 2.jpg

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

KCB hosts educational program encouraging public to plant herbs to help pollinators.jpg

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

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KCB member hands info on native plants along with wildflower seed balls to local citizen at Cuero Farmers Market..jpg

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

Social media and local Keep Cuero Beautiful affiliate encourages public to plant natives as well as provide information at the KCB booth at the local farmers market.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Monarch Friendly Sign.jpg

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

5

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

The signs identify the area as ‘Monarch Friendly’ which can be secured from City Secretary by citizens who have helped make their yards more friendly; no external signs purchased.

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