City of Denton

Denton, TX

Mayor Gerard Hudspeth

Pledge Summary

The City of Denton is a vibrant and growing community that is home to two state universities, the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University. With a combined enrollment of over 50,000 students, the universities attract all walks of life and bring in a variety of cultural, sports, and entertainment amenities to the Denton community. The City is also known for its music and arts community and strong commitment to sustainability through actions such as its 100% renewable electricity supply. Since becoming a member of Monarch City USA and Bee City USA, the City of Denton has shown its commitment to pollinator protection through the creation of pollinator gardens and the development of numerous gardening workshops and events, such as Monarch Madness.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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.

Systems Change

- 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 Gerard Hudspeth	2026	2/23/2026	
Mayor Gerard Hudspeth	2025	3/3/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Gerard Hudspeth	2024	3/5/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Gerard Hudspeth	2023	4/6/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Gerard Hudspeth	2021	4/30/2021	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.).

7100

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.)

Roughly 50% youth and 50% 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.

0

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.

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No new City facilitated Monarch specific habitat but there has been residential habitat created of an unknown acreage through the community habitat program.

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

All the classes offered by the City of Denton on Monarch and pollinator conservation are free. We are also making a conscious effort to host these classes at locations all over the city so that they are available to those with travel or time limitations. Native plants are periodically provided free to the community through wildflower seed packets and our annual native tree giveaway. Our tree rebate program offers another way community members can receive financial assistance for planting native trees.

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

The City of Denton recognizes the important role Monarchs play in our ecosystem. The actions we take to help Monarchs will help other urban wildlife as well as the people in our community through improved air quality and city beautification. We recognize that our city is in the Monarch Butterfly's migration path and hope to help conserve this iconic species for generations to come.

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?

Resources provided by NWF have been helpful as well as native landscaping information from outside organizations such as Rooted In and Wildscapers Landscaping. A resource specifically about creating pollinator habitats in small spaces would be helpful.

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

Over the past year we launched Denton's Wildlife Steward program to incentivize citizens to certify their yards as wildlife habitats, supporting pollinator conservation.

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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

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

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.

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.

Sustainability Newsletter Summer 2023.pdf

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

We have continued our quarterly Sustainability Newsletter with a dedicated wildlife conservation section. Included is an example of our Summer 2023 newsletter that provides links to our wildflower program and how to start a pollinator garden for national pollinator week. We have also introduced two new children's classes called pollinator pals and

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wildlife games where children learn what wildlife, including Monarchs, need to survive and how they can help these animals in their own home.

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.

Denton works with the University of North Texas and Texas Women's University to install pocket prairies and pollinator gardens throughout their properties. Keep Denton Beautiful and the staff at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center regularly have volunteer opportunities where members of the community can help plant and maintain various gardens throughout the city. This gives citizens the knowledge and skills to plant gardens of their own.

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.

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

City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department, City of Denton Environmental Services and Sustainability Department, Keep Denton Beautiful

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

The City of Denton observes no mow May across many properties including medians, rights-of-way, public parks, and municipal properties. We also have a wildflower planting program that has been working to install native plants, mainly flowers, on 224 acres of open spaces throughout the city. Staff from the City Parks department maintain previously planted Monarch habitat at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center and the several municipal buildings.

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.

Elm Fork Chapter of the Master Naturalists

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

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The City of Denton works closely with the Elm Fort Master Naturalist to increase the amount of wildflowers, native trees, and milkweed planted around the city. The Master Naturalist also conduct public education classes on the topics of native planting, gardening for wildlife, and pollinators.

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.

Picture1.png

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

Community tree giveaway.png

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

Redbud festival.png

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

1000

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

5000

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

Keep Denton Beautiful, Emily Fowler Library

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?

City of Denton Environmental Services and Sustainability Department

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

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National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Program. In the past year, we have added 23 new certified habitats on private residence, grade schools, and colleges and continue to work towards a community level certification.

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?

City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department, Elm Fork Master Naturalist

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

At Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center there is a demonstration garden and native prairie area where milkweed is maintained and added when available. There are also gardens with flowering plants in municipal parks and outside of many municipal buildings, libraries, and recreation centers throughout the city.

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?

City of Denton

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.

August 2020- https://www.cityofdenton.com/DocumentCenter/View/352/Simply-Sustainable---A-Framework-for-Dentons-Future-PDF?bidId=

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 are also working on a climate action and adaptation plan that will include habitat preservation for native species as a component of climate mitigation and resilience. The finalized plan will go into effect in 2024.

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?

City of Denton

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

Complete

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2023- https://www.cityofdenton.com/219/Integrated-Pest-Management-IPM-Resources

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.

2023 Signed Resolution 23-838.pdf

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

City of Denton Environmental Services and Sustainability Department, Lights out Texas

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.

April 18, 2023

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