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 scene 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 Pollinator Pals and Wildlife Habitat Creation.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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 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.
- 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).
- 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

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

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- 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.)

1000

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.

10

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.

A new native pollinator garden was created in front of the Materials Recovery Facility that services Denton, Pratt Recycling, Inc., and 29 new habitats were created in residential and small business green spaces through the community habitat program.

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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?

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 the Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Master Gardeners, and Native American Seed.

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

This past year, Denton applied for, and received, a grant from the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas program that provided $600 for the purchase of native pollinator plants. This grant was used to fund the plants needed for the garden created in front of Pratt Recycling, Inc..

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?

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

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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.

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

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

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 Spring 2024.pdf

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

The City of Denton distributes a Sustainability Newsletter quarterly each year. Each edition is tailored to the season and includes a wildlife and water conservation section, both of which often mention the importance of landscaping with native plants. There are also tips and tricks for creating wildlife habitat at home. Additionally, a class called "Denton's Wildlife

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Habitat Program" is offered every spring and fall which includes information about pollinator gardens.

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.

Proposed wildflower map.PNG

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

Parks and Recreation and Environmental Services & Sustainability

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

The City of Denton already has several low-mow and wildflower areas, and the program is currently undergoing a revamp. Current sites are being looked at for effectiveness and sustainability and new sites are being identified for inclusion in the program. Attached is a map of the proposed new wildflower planting locations.

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)

800

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

800

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

The Community Tree Giveaway is run through Denton's Parks and Recreation Department and Keep Denton Beautiful

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.

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

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

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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)

1401 S. Mayhill Rd. Denton, TX 76208. The new garden at Pratt Recycling, Inc. is located next to several City facilities where tours are provided. These tours are meant to show sustainability efforts within the City including the Materials Recovery Facility (Pratt), water treatment plant, Home Chemical Collection, the City of Denton Landfill, and Beneficial Reuse facility (compost). The garden is now included in our tour offerings.

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

Pratt Recycling, Inc.

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.

0.01

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 29 new certified habitats on private residences and a small business as we continue to work towards a community level certification.

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.

500

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.

Privet Removal continues to take place at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center and Bowling Green Park. Techniques include physical removal and herbicide spot treatment on leftover privet materials.

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.

March 2022: Denton 2040 Comprehensive Plan- https://www.cityofdenton.com/DocumentCenter/View/5237/Exhibit-2---Draft-Denton-2040-Comprehensive-Plan-PDF?bidId= August 2020: Simply Sustainable Framework- https://www.cityofdenton.com/DocumentCenter/View/352/Simply-Sustainable---A-Framework-for-Dentons-Future-PDF?bidId=

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

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

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complete

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

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

N/A

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 resolution.pdf

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

Lights Out proclamation.jpg

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

City of Denton, Lights Out Texas, University of North Texas Bird Campus

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

complete, countinuous

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2023: resolution; 2024: Proclamations

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

Proclamations are made each year for Lights Out during bird migration seasons and educational efforts are ongoing

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