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 electric supply. Since becoming a member of Monarch City USA, Bee City USA, and Bird City Texas, 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 Creating Monarch Habitat and Denton's Wildlife Habitat Program.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.

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.).

2749

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.)

400

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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.

26

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.

Habitats have been created at residences, schools, one large business, City parks, and City Open Spaces.

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

All Monarch and pollinator conservation classes offered by the City of Denton are free and open to the public. They are hosted throughout the city to be available to residents with travel or time limitations. Additionally, native plants are periodically provided free to the community through wildflower seed packets and our annual tree giveaway. The City of Denton also provides tree rebates to community members to provide financial assistance for the planting of native and adaptive trees.

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

The City of Denton values sustainability, both by the municipality and by residents, and wants to ensure the preservation of healthy outdoor spaces for years to come. We recognize the important role Monarchs play in our ecosystem and that the actions our community takes to help them will help other urban wildlife and our residents through improved local air quality and city beautification. The Monarch Butterfly's migration path brings them through Denton every year and we hope to be a healthy stop and contribute to the continuation of this iconic species.

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?

The most helpful resources have been sourcing experts from organizations like the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Elm Fork Master Naturalists, and the Denton County Master Gardeners to teach classes for our residents. These classes are free and open to the public to help teach residents how they can make a difference at home. Resources that provide information and tips about container gardening, or other small space gardening, would be useful and help us to increase pollinator habitat with our apartment-dwelling population.

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

There are already plans in place to seed or reseed other areas in the City, including 2 acres around a fire station, at the beginning of the new year. Additionally, a larger seeding for pollinators effort is in the works for 2027.

Selected Action Items

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

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.

MMP social media.png

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

The City of Denton communicates with residents about Monarch gardens through social media, a quarterly newsletter, informational classes, and print materials that are given out at tabling events.

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)

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700

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

700

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

The community Tree Giveaway is a collaboration between the City of Denton's Environmental Services and Sustainability Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Keep Denton Beautiful.

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, City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department, City of Denton Animal Services Department, and Keep Denton Beautiful

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

National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Program. In the past year, we have added 16 new certified habitats as we continue to work towards a community level certification. The City of Denton also maintains our Bee City USA, Monarch City USA, and Bird City Texas certifications.

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 Environmental Services and Sustainability, City of Denton Parks and Recreation, Elm Fork Texas Master Naturalist

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Native plant seeds were distributed in select low-mow areas and Open Spaces throughout the city and at Clear Creak Natural Heritage Center. Native milkweed and nectar-producing plants were maintained at the Pratt garden, Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, and various parks throughout the city.

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.

2918

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.

Denton 2040 Comprehensive Plan – March 2022: Simply Sustainable Framework – May 2026. Both include sections that prioritize wildlife habitat and promote the retention of essential ecosystems and habitat in Denton. https://www.cityofdenton.com/232/Sustainable-Denton

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https://www.cityofdenton.com/772/Denton-2040-Comprehensive-Plan

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

N/A

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

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.

2023. The Integrated Pest Management Plan is a decision-making process to determine pest levels and tolerance thresholds and combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize health, environmental, and financial risks. - https://www.cityofdenton.com/219/Integrated-Pest-Management-IPM-Resources#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20City%20of%20Denton%27s%20Integrated,the%20safety%20of%20the%20public%20a

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

N/A

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.

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

shared image (2).jpeg

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

Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and the Native Plant Society

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

Members of these organizations have provided their expertise by teaching classes hosted by the City of Denton. We also utilize and distribute some of their resources to our community to increase monarch conservation knowledge.

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

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

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

Bird City Texas, Lights Out Texas, 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, continuous

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.

Complete, continuous, 2023 and 2026. The 2023 resolution details the intent of Denton to become a Bird City by performing all the actions needed to do so, including reducing light pollution. Additionally, every year, a proclamation is made to recognize ‘Lights Out Nights” during bird migration in both the fall and spring.

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

N/A

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.

shared image (1).jpeg

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

City of Denton Parks and Recreation and City of Denton Environmental Services and Sustainability

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

The City of Denton maintains several low-mow wildflower areas that are continuously evaluated for effectiveness. Open and green spaces are also evaluated for wildflower seeding each year and priority is given to spaces that are most likely to support successful habitat.

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.

shared image (3).jpeg

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)

Pratt Industries, 1401 S Mayhill Rd, Denton, TX 76208, 33°11'41.9"N 97°05'01.6"W

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

The City of Denton Environmental Services and Sustainability planned and maintains the garden with help from volunteers from local schools and colleges. It is partially supported by Pratt Industries, our local recycling facility.

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

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