City of Mesquite

Mesquite, TX

Mayor Daniel Aleman, Jr

Pledge Summary

The city of Mesquite is a suburb of Dallas, Texas, and is just fifteen minutes east of downtown Dallas. The population is 143,000 and to keep the population engaged, we have a very extensive parks and recreation system dedicated to the education, preservation, and expansion of pollinator and native habitats. One such endeavor, the Paschall Park Butterfly Trail, is maintained and monitored by Keep Mesquite Beautiful and its dedicated volunteers. Annually, volunteers improve the habitat, apply for monarch butterfly host plant grants, and assist in tagging the butterfly population. Mesquite aims to be a dynamic and engaging community while ensuring native beauty is embraced at its core.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Daniel Aleman, Jr	2023	3/3/2023	Signatories

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Mayor Bruce Archer	2021	4/30/2021

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

10000

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.)

7000 Youth 3000 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.

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.

Parks, Yards, Containers, Balconies, Schools, Historic Site

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

It's for everyone.

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

Keep Mesquite Beautiful's mascot is a Monarch, so it helps further our mission and presence.

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?

Pollinator seeds and milkweed

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

We have planted thousands of seed balls, hundreds of plants, and many pounds of seeds. We even started Monarch Fest! to help educate and promote conservation.

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 Mesquite Beautiful, Mesquite Garden Club

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

350

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

KMB received a grant from Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas to expand our variety of pollinator plants and milkweeds.

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

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

City Management and Council

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

Complete

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

City Management

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How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

0

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

The community art project is in progress and will be finalized and executed in the months to come once funded.

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).

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

Butterfly Trail.jpg

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.

337160669_123904463999757_6955198987763804409_n.jpg

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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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

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include a link to the program, if possible)

Paschall Park Wildflower and Butterfly Trail and Learning Gardens at multiple schools

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)

10

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

Mesquite ISD

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

Support for programming.

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).

1000 Students, 10 Educators

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

Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Mesquite Garden Club, Mesquite Parks and Rec., City Manager's Office, Mesquite ISD

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.

5

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

The Beautification committee meets every Friday and Second Saturday. There are two major community volunteer events planned yearly in the spring and fall.

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.

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Plant Sale.jpg

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

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

We have engaged with the Mesquite Garden Club and Mesquite ISD. Milkweed has been given out at events and sold at multiple plant sales throughout the year.

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