City of Flagstaff

Flagstaff, AZ

Mayor Coral Evans Coral Evans

Pledge Summary

Climate change is bringing changes in temperature, snowpack, water availability, and wildfire risk to Flagstaff. These changes threaten Flagstaff's natural resources, economy, infrastructure, and quality of life. The Flagstaff community is working to proactively preserve the natural environment, working toward carbon neutrality, and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Protecting the Monarch butterfly is an integral action in achieving our community-wide goals.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing 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.)
- 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.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed /

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native nectar plant planting programs.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Becky Daggett	2026	3/25/2026	
Mayor Becky Daggett	2025	3/12/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Becky Daggett	2024	2/27/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Becky Daggett	2023	2/21/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Paul Deasy	2022	1/10/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Coral Evans Coral Evans	2021	1/4/2021	Leadership Circle

Action Items

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.

1

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

The City of Flagstaff is dedicated to the creation and continued maintenance of pollinator habitat as their existence relates to climate goals set out in the recently passed Carbon Neutrality Plan.

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?

All of the online resources including the webinars and guides available on the Mayor's Monarch portal have been helpful for understanding how to approach specific action items. It would be helpful to have an optional virtual convening of pledge cities once a year in

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order to share ideas, hurdles, and successes specific to each community. Having more connectivity with other pledge cities for more systems change would be a valuable resource.

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.).

500

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.

Pollinator habitat has been created predominantly at community gardens, historic landmarks, and public parks.

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

Several of the City's main pollinator habitat areas, Bushmaster Park, the Hal Jensen Recreation Center, and Izabel St. Community Garden, are in low-income neighborhoods with significant Hispanic and Indigenous populations. The City's Parks, Open Space, and Sustainability programs have all utilized these spaces for free educational opportunities that connect the existence of pollinators to ecosystem health as a whole.

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.)

200+ youth, 300+ adults.

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

Over the past year hundreds of milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants have been grown and implemented by Parks staff utilizing a sustainably built greenhouse and onsite propagation infrastructure. This program has been hugely successful and economical and will continue to bolster the expansion of pollinator habitat across the City in future years. All of the City's current pollinator habitats have accompanying signage to signify the effort, so it's difficult to gauge just how many people have been engaged by the Mayor's Monarch Pledge here in Flagstaff. Considering the high level of tourism Flagstaff receives during the warm months the number of people engaged is most likely much higher..

Selected Action Items

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Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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.

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

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

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

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?

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

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

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

0

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

Planned events in Spring were cancelled due to COVID 19

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

0

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

There are now two pollinator gardens located at City Hall. The first was implemented in the front of the building which faces passing cars on route 66. The second garden is on the northside of the building which has accompanying signage to mark the space as pollinator friendly and implemented as part of the pledge. Completed two other gardens at Bushmaster Park and Hal Jensen Recreation Center in April of 2020 and completed a garden at citizens cemetery in June 2020.

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

The City partnered with the non-profit organization Terra BIRDS to implement the garden on the southside of City Hall and the Parks department spearheaded implementation at all other listed gardens.

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.

.25

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

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).

There is community art project planned to be implemented in the spring of 2022 through the Creative Placemaking Project at the Historic Southside Community Garden (formerly O'Leary St. Community Garden). The call to artists is planned to be released before the new year and an artist will be selected by a diverse panel of community members 6 weeks following the release of the call to artists. This project is meant to enhance the garden through functional art, plantings, and a community art project organized by the selected artist with support from the City's Beautification and Sustainability departments.

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

Terra BIRDs will assist with the preproposal meeting set for the beginning of the new year in order to give artists a better sense of the history of the space considering their involvement with the community gardens over the years.

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

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

Smaller signs have been implemented at four garden sites listed in previous action items that mark that the area is designated pollinator habitat, but the pollinator greenhouse will host a more in depth educational sign at it's entrance. The sign is set to be installed over the next few months. The design is featured in the first page of the attached pdf.

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

Pollinator GH Sign.pdf

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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:

January 7th, 2020

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MAYORS MONARCH PLEDGE DAY 2021 DRAFT.docx

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.

FLAGSTAFF AREA POLLINATOR PLANT LIST.pdf

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

The City of Flagstaff's website hosts information on pollinators including a regionally specific pollinator planting list and accompanying guide. In addition to this, the City's Sustainability Office hosted a free garden workshop series over the summer of 2021 and one of the workshops focused specifically on pollinators and beneficial insects. Free seed packets were given to participants at the end of the workshop to encourage plantings at 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.

The City of Flagstaff is engaged with a local non-profit, Terra BIRDS, who specialize youth gardening programs. This year they received a Beautification in Action grant to construct a pollinator garden at one of the city-sponsored community gardens. The process has just

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begun with clearing of the space and new sign was just installed a few weeks ago to help communicate the far reaching impacts of pollinators on ecosystems as a whole.

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

IMG_8155 (2).jpg

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.

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

The City of Flagstaff Parks department has implemented a native pollinator planting program with locations at City Hall, Heritage Square, Bushmaster Park, Foxglenn Park and the Hal Jensen Recreation center. There are more locations planned such as right of ways within city-limits. Over 100 milkweed plants have been cultivated and planted within the past year at the above locations.

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

IMG_8459.JPG

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

Public works, Sustainability, and Parks departments were involved in these efforts.

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.

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

The City of Flagstaff is working alongside community partners such Flagstaff Unified School District, Coconino County Cooperative Extension, and Terra BIRDS to make equitable greenspace at several local schools with funding from the Green Schoolyards Grant through the Children in Nature Network. Creating pollinator habitat in the new schoolyards is a large component of this project and currently seedlings planted by students are being held in a greenhouse at Northern Arizona University to be planted in the new Killip schoolyard in the spring of 2022.

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

Thank You-4.pdf

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

Killip Elementary School, Terra Birds, Coconino Cooperative Extension Office, City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office.

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.

43

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.

The City of Flagstaff Open Space Program organizes a volunteer event every Wednesday during the growing season to address invasive weeds in Picture Canyon, McMillan Mesa, Observatory Mesa, and Schultz Creek. Additionally the City Parks department carries invasive species removal at Flagstaff's largest parks, Foxglenn (20 acres) and Bushmaster (20 acres). Removal of thistle, knapweed, and other invasive species are normal maintenance in open park areas. Next season the parks department anticipates additional capacity for this work with three additional team members in spring of 2022.

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

Wednesday Weed Pulls.PNG

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

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

The City Parks department constructed a sustainable pollinator greenhouse to support the propagation of milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants. During the winter of 2020-2021, Parks staff were able to propagate over 100 milkweed plants using fridges within

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their current facilities. They are set to continue this work and the Sustainability Office plans to host planting events to better involve the local community in this effort.

What species were collected or propagated?

Asperula, Tuberosa, and Speciosa

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

City of Flagstaff Parks Department

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

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Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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.

https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3799/Dark-Sky-Community

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

International Dark-Sky Association

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

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

2

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Several milkweed plants were planted in Spring of 2021 at the Bonito St. Community garden in designated plots. More plants are planned to be implemented at all three

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community gardens in Spring of 2022 through projects in partnership with the City's Beautification, Arts, and Sciences department and the newly built pollinator greenhouse and propagation program the City's Parks department has constructed.

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

Terra BIRDS is currently our community partner in physically planting milkweed in the gardens through their weekly volunteer day sessions throughout the growing season.

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