City of Flagstaff

Flagstaff, AZ

Mayor Paul Deasy

Pledge Summary

Flagstaff is a city in Northern Arizona with a population of around 70,000. Flagstaff sits at 7,000 ft. in elevation and is known for proximity to an array of unique landscapes including Grand Canyon National Park. Mayor Deasy of Flagstaff, AZ has committed to a third year of preserving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators through the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. This past year Flagstaff was able to propagate and implement hundreds of pollinator friendly plants in local parks and other significant City properties. Flagstaff looks forward to continuing to support increased education and habitat for pollinators in 2022.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 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.

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Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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 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.).

700

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.)

500 youth and 200 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.

2

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.

Habitat is being created primarily in community gardens and schools with progress also being made in downtown public spaces, and roadsides.

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

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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.

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

The City of Flagstaff is committed to establishing and continuing to expand pollinator spaces throughout our community. As a commitment towards our future, developing educational opportunities that address issues facing pollinator populations is vital. Each year that we participate in this program, our collective knowledge and passion grows.

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 monthly network-wide meeting proved to be an asset for engaging with other communities and gaining insight into solutions for common issues and obstacles. One improvement that could be made is a directory that allows pledge participants to reach out to one another and establish a stronger connection that allows for closer collaboration. Additionally, the possibility of creating one pledge that includes multiple cities in proximity to one another could create more geographic cohesion and systems change.

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

This year has seen considerable efforts made toward butterfly and pollinator conservation at the community level. Flagstaff hosted its very first Pollinator Week celebration, alongside national pollinator week from June 20th to the 26th. Over the course of 7 days, multiple events were held including an art contest, a community workshop, and a pollinator planting day.

Selected Action Items

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

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

Mural BIA Grant Application.docx

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

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TerraBIRDS will fulfill the objectives outlined in the awarded grant for completion of the pollinator mural. Their involvement with local area school groups and community members will help to ensure that the end result is representative of the area and the people who live there.

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).

14

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 a community art project planned to be implemented in the spring of 2023 through a Beautification and Public Art Commission, BIA (Beautification in Action) grant. The art project will consist of several pollinator murals featured on the side of the Flagstaff Sustainability Office. Each art piece will feature the written name of the pollinator, scientific name, and indigenous name. Community engagement will be a strong aspect of the painting process and residents will have the opportunity to provide input.

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

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

Terra BIRDS and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension were both instrumental partners in acquiring and planting milkweed starts.

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

10

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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Several milkweed plants and other nectar-producing plants native to Flagstaff were planted in the summer of 2022 at the Bonito Street community garden. More actions are being taken to prepare for the following growing season by planting milkweed starts and others in the City's Parks department grow room and the recently constructed pollinator greenhouse. Increasing capacity and organization will help these efforts continue to grow and succeed.

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 continually engages with a local non-profit, Terra BIRDS, which specializes in youth gardening programs. A pollinator garden was planted this year at a city-sponsored community garden. TerraBIRDS has also created a strong partnership with local schools and has planted several pollinator gardens to date as a collaborative effort.

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.

Pollinator Week (2).jpg

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

Exploring Pollinators Art Contest (2).png

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

Alongside national pollinator week, the City of Flagstaff hosted its first inaugural pollinator week celebration this past June. As part of the celebrations, multiple methods of public communication were created to spread awareness about pollinators, specifically the monarch butterfly. Social media posts were created and shared via the sustainability office's Instagram and Facebook pages. Pollinator week also involved a pollinator-themed art contest. The artwork was displayed at the public library alongside a printed exhibit that shared information about local area pollinators.

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.

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

Killip Elementary School, Terra BIRDS, Coconino County Cooperative Extension Office, Arizona Milkweed for Monarchs, City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office.

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 as Flagstaff Unified School District, Coconino County Cooperative Extension, and Terra BIRDS to make equitable green space at several local schools with funding from the Green Schoolyards

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Grant through the Children in Nature Network. Now in its second year, the program was able to help students plant nearly 100 seedlings in the new Killip Elementary schoolyard this past spring. Seedlings were provided by the Arizona Milkweed for Monarchs non-profit organization.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

What species were collected or propagated?

The City Parks Department worked to propagate several species of milkweed including common and horsetail milkweed. Propagated starts were planted in city parks and byways.

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

Arizona Milkweed for Monarchs, Flagstaff Parks Department.

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

The propagation effort was done continuously throughout the winter and spring by the city parks department. No event was held.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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City of Flagstaff Open Space Program, City of Flagstaff Parks Department.

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

In progress

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

It is an ongoing project to continually increase the number of native plants, shrubs, and trees planted in Flagstaff. We hope that the continued propagation and efforts of the parks department will bring us closer to our goal of establishing these metrics in the city ordinances. Anticipate more progress to come in 2023.

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 removes invasive species at Flagstaff's largest parks, Foxglenn (20 acres) and Bushmaster (20 acres). Removal of thistle, knapweed, and other invasive species is routine maintenance in open park areas.

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 two pollinator gardens located at city hall (211 W Aspen Ave, Flagstaff AZ.). 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. There are also

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three additional gardens which have been completed at Bushmaster Park, Hal Jensen Recreation Center (2403 N Izabel St. Flagstaff AZ) , and Heritage Square in April of 2021.

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 has been tasked with the completion and management of all other created pollinator spaces.

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

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

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

Untitled design (18).png

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

The roadside is located on the western edge of North Mogollon St. as you approach northbound from Cherry street. It is featured on a corner bordering a pedestrian path and the sustainability offices' urban farm incubator.

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

30

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.

0.25

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The area is regularly serviced by sustainability staff and community volunteers. Regular watering is conducted by the tenant of the urban farm incubator, Ruby Earth Farms.

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Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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