City of Flagstaff

Flagstaff, AZ

Mayor Becky Daggett

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 Daggett of Flagstaff, AZ has committed to a fourth 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 2023.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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

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.
- 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

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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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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.).

660

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.)

405 youth and 255 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.

1

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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.

Small pollinator gardens were created at schools and community centers

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

Two new pollinator gardens were created in low-income areas of our community. One at a low-income, BIPOC community center and the second at an elementary school serving low-income neighborhoods.

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

Our city has committed to a goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 and address the climate change crisis through improvements in equity, climate mitigation, and climate adaptation. The conservation of pollinators and pollinator habitat is at the root of so many of our goals to increase resilience to climate change, increase access to local food and community gardens, and increase the capacity of greenspaces to absorb carbon.

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 webinars and other educational resources have been the most helpful. A lot of our outreach was through National Pollinator Week, so it would be helpful to have more resources centered around that community engagement opportunity. It also would be helpful to have more support for smaller pollinator habitat restoration projects (i.e. those below 1 acre).

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

Our community hosted a massive educational campaign in June for National Pollinator Week that included the creation of two new pollinator gardens, a pollinator festival, and a variety of educational events to reach all ages.

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?

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Terra BIRDS, City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation, Flagstaff Sustainability Office, Let it Grow, Coconino County Cooperative Extension

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

35

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Additional native milkweed and nectar-producing plants were added to the Bonito Community Garden, the Historic Southside Community Garden, and the brand-new Hal Jensen Community Garden with the help of volunteers. Plants were grown by the City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation and Let it Grow, while Terra Birds and the Flagstaff Sustainability Office managed the newly added plants. The Flagstaff Sustainability Office, Terra Birds, and the Coconino County Cooperative Extension continue to maintain all other pollinator garden spaces.

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.

image.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.

IMG_5572.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.

Pollinator Conservation 101.png

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

2023 Exploring Pollinators Art Contest banner.png

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

2023 Pollinator Month Calendar.png

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

Alongside National Pollinator Week in June, the City of Flagstaff hosted its second annual Pollinator Week celebration. 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. To kick off Pollinator Week, City staff partnered with the Flagstaff Arboretum to host a Pollinator Festival that featured pollinator-focused educational talks, youth activities, and a native plant sale. Pollinator Week also involved a pollinator-themed art contest. The artwork was displayed first at the Pollinator Festival and then at the public library. Other youth-oriented events focused on pollinators were hosted throughout the month of June to further engage the community in pollinator conservation and education. To make lasting impacts through this massive educational push, City staff and community partners worked together to begin two new pollinator gardens, one at Lura Kinsey Elementary School and a second at the Murdoch Community Center. Finally, to encourage residents to plant monarch/pollinator gardens at home, seeds for native pollinator-friendly flowers (including milkweed) were widely distributed throughout the community. Access to these resources for community members was maintained through social media, newsletters, tabling, public announcements, and general word of mouth.

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.

Strong engagement with community garden groups such as Terra Birds and Coconino Master Gardeners continued as new native milkweeds and other native nectar-producing plants were added to various community and school gardens through volunteer-oriented service projects.

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.

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

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Flagstaff Sustainability Office and Flagstaff Parks & Recreation

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

Flagstaff Sustainability Office and Flagstaff Parks & Recreation continued a partnership of growing nectar-producing plants and milkweed in the City Pollinator Greenhouse to plant throughout the community. Approximately 100 plants were grown and planted to enhance local pollinator habitat.

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.

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

Killip Elementary School, Lura Kinsey Elementary School, Terra BIRDS, Coconino County Cooperative Extension Office, Arizona Milkweed for Monarchs, Northern Arizona University, The Flagstaff Arboretum, the Murdoch Community Center, Girl Scout Troop 6520, City of Flagstaff Community Development, and the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office.

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

These groups contribute to either the management or creation of a pollinator habitat garden/space in the Flagstaff community. Killip Elementary School and Lura Kinsey Elementary School both manage pollinator gardens with plants provided by the Flagstaff Arboretum, Milkweed for Monarchs, Lily of the Field, City growing programs, and local plant nurseries (i.e., Warners and Violas). The Murdoch Community Center, as of summer 2023, has a new pollinator garden space created and managed by City of Flagstaff Community Development staff and Girl Scout Troop 6520 with plants provided by the same organizations that supported gardens at the elementary schools. Terra BIRDS, Coconino County Cooperative Extension Office, and Northern Arizona University were immensely supportive of these efforts through volunteering, habitat design guidance, community engagement, and the management of pollinator garden spaces.

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.

Pollinator Mural.png

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

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Terra BIRDS

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).

The community art project planned in the summer of 2022 was implemented in the summer of 2023 through a Beautification and Public Art Commission, BIA (Beautification in Action) grant. The art project consists of several pollinator murals featured on the side of the Flagstaff Sustainability Office. Next steps within the plan are to have each art piece feature the written name of the pollinator, scientific name, and indigenous name.

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)

Unknown

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

200

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

While the City of Flagstaff did not directly host a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap, various local businesses and non-profits hosted native plant sales/markets, seed swaps, and free distributions of seeds for nectar-producing plants. The City of Flagstaff Public Library and Coconino Cooperative Extension also collaboratively manage a seed library. Finally, the Sustainability Office provided a Neighborhood Sustainability Grant to Flagstaff Foodlink to host a seed swap event in spring 2023.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

What species were collected or propagated?

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The City Parks & Recreation Department worked to propagate several species of milkweed (including common and horsetail milkweed) and a variety of other native, nectar producing plant species.

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

City of Flagstaff Parks & Recreation, City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office, Arizona Milkweed for Monarchs, the Flagstaff Arboretum, Elevated Gardening, Lily of the Field, and Let it Grow

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

The City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Department managed the propagation effort continuously throughout the winter and spring. Other local businesses and non-profits propagated milkweed seeds and other native nectar-producing plants to sell/distribute throughout the community. No event was held.

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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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)

Throughout the summer of 2023, a new pollinator garden space was created in front of the Murdoch Community Center with the help of Girl Scout Troop 6520, City of Flagstaff Community Development, Flagstaff Sustainability Office, the Southside Community Association, and the Murdoch Community Center volunteers. Our community also continued to manage multiple pollinator gardens throughout the community. There are two pollinator gardens located at Flagstaff 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 three additional gardens which have been completed at Bushmaster Park (3150 N Alta Vista Dr. Flagstaff AZ), Hal Jensen Recreation Center (2403 N Izabel St. Flagstaff AZ), and Heritage Square (Aspen Ave Flagstaff AZ) in April of 2021.

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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 City Parks & Recreation Department, with the assistance of local landscaping business Fox Glove, 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.

0.5

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)

Pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted in the raised beds outside of the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office along Mogollon St (419 N Mogollon St Flagstaff AZ 86001) where they can be viewed by those visiting the office, passing through to Thorpe Park, or using the urban trail.

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.

0.10

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These plants are managed and watered by the 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.

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53

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.

Each year, 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 and Recreation 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. A recent program expansion saw increased removal of invasive weeds from the local watersheds and the Rio De Flag stream/wash.

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).

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 include a link to the program, if possible)

The Flagstaff Green School Yards program, supported by the Flagstaff Sustainability Office, Terra Birds, Coconino Cooperative Extension, and NAU worked together to maintain a thriving horticulture program, garden, and pollinator garden at Killup Elementary School

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)

8

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

Killip Elementary School Lura Kinsey Elementary School Ponderosa High School

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

Green School Yards has supported the provision of experienced community members who can teach horticulture and conservation related topics to youth. Additionally, grant funding from Green School Yards supported new garden spaces and other forms of pollinator-friendly green space infrastructure at schools.

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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).

300 students and 30 educators

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

Terra Birds, Coconino Cooperative Extension, Flagstaff United School District, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Foodlink, local master gardeners, City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office, and City of Flagstaff Beautification Arts & Sciences

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.

0.5

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

Summer garden clubs and other programs are established at schools to maintain planted pollinator habitats.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes 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.

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

IMG_2321.jpg

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

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How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

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200

What was the date of your festival?

June 18th

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

The Flagstaff Arboretum, Arizona Public Service (APS), and the Flagstaff Sustainability Office collaborated to host the festival. Vendors and other community partners were also present, including but not limited to local artists, the NAU SSLUG Garden, the Flagstaff Public Library, Flagstaff Water Services, and the local bookstore "Bookmans"

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

"Pollinator Fest" was hosted at the Flagstaff Arboretum to kick off National Pollinator Week. The event featured a sale of native nectar-producing plants, several lectures on pollinators and pollinator conservation, food, local artists selling handmade goods, a pollinator art contest display, and family-friendly educational activities focused on pollinator/monarch conservation education. The event was hosted on Father's Day (June 18th) from 10 am - 2 pm. Outreach was shared between the Flagstaff Sustainability Office and the Arboretum through social media, newsletters, and email blasts. The Arboretum was able to sell a lot of plants, the family-friendly activities and lectures saw quite a bit of engagement, and the event was overall a success! We are hoping to continue hosting this festival every June to celebrate National Pollinator Week. Ideally, we can host it on a different weekend than Father's Day weekend in the future, as this conflict limited our attendance.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

MicrosoftTeams-image (2).png

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

image003.jpg

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

image004.jpg

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

Monarch Pledge Sign in Garden.jpg

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

8

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge signs have been placed at each of our notable pollinator garden/habitat spaces and city-managed community gardens. Photos of the sign most commonly used are attached to this action item. City of Flagstaff employees designed and purchased the signs. The signs were then built and printed at a local sign printing business, NOAZ.

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?

City of Flagstaff Open Space Program, City of Flagstaff Parks and Recreation Department, City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office

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.

An ongoing project is 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 and Recreation Department will bring us closer to our goal of establishing these metrics in the city ordinances. There have been promising changes in the frequency of landscaping efforts to prioritize pollinators when designing new landscapes. Northern Arizona University is also currently undergoing a study to determine which method of native/pollinator friendly landscaping can most easily be implemented across the campus. We anticipate more progress in 2024.

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