# City of Flagstaff

Flagstaff, AZ

Mayor Becky Daggett

## Pledge Summary

Flagstaff, Arizona is a city of roughly 76,000 people located at the base of the San Francisco Peaks in Northern Arizona. Surrounded by National Forest and boundless outdoor recreation opportunities, Flagstaff is also home to 3 city run community gardens and a thriving network of gardens and nature education programs and non-profits. In 2025, Mayor Becky Daggett has committed to a 6th year of pollinator preservation through educational programs, dedicated pollinator gardens and green spaces, invasives removal initiatives, and more. We deeply value our many community partnerships with schools, educators, businesses, and county and state programs that share this dedication with us and make our pollinator and monarch programs possible and engaging to the community.

## Action Items Committed for 2025

### 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.

### 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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

### 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.
- 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 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.).**

304

**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.)**

183

**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.**

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

0.25

**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.**

The main habitat that is being created is at community gardens, FUSD schools, spaces near municipal buildings, downtown community spaces (like Heritage Square), roadsides, along the Flagstaff Urban Trail System, as well as streams in the Rio de Flag watershed.

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

Workshops and events are free and open to the public. These events are commonly held at the city library or parks, where people of all backgrounds frequently visit and recreate.

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

City of Flagstaff currently has the Carbon Neutrality Plan to fulfill, with the ultimate goal of reaching carbon neutrality in the next four years. Protecting pollinators and conserving their habitat is a critical task to achieving this goal. Also, there is a strong community centered around gardening and farming - it is important to teach individuals in this space about pollinator's' role in growing food.

**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 Sustainability Office has successfully collaborated with numerous municipal divisions and community partners on educational events and hands-on workshops. These relationships have been a significant help in planning and implementing such events at a city level. There could be improvement in working with Coconino County to extend these opportunities for learning outside of the city boundary, especially those that live on the outskirts of town or on tribal lands.

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

Pollinator Week celebrations have regularly been scheduled every year and are continuously growing. This is the third year in holding a Pollinator Art contest for both K-12 students and adults - everyone is very passionate about their art! Also, the Sustainability Division leveraged the Pledge to secure grant funding for a new pollinator mural on the office to complement the existing pollinator garden. The artist commissioned for this mural is actually on of the winners of 2025's art contest.

## Selected Action Items

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

## 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.**

f781fb12-eb50-435e-a25c-aa3d92e21a3f.png

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

For all events (including Pollinator Fest, the Pollinator Art Contest, and various workshops) Instagram, monthly newsletters, paper flyers, email lists, and word-of-mouth were utilized for promotion of such activities.

## 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 Sustainability Office is currently responsible for three community gardens, all of which have dedicated pollinator plots that are maintained annually. Workshops focused on seeding these plots were coordinated with TerraBirds, Native Americans for Community Action, Coconino Master Gardeners, and several elementary and middle schools. There was also an event where a local research biologist exhibited monarch tagging to the public at one of our community gardens.

## 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 (37).jpg

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

shared image (36).jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces, and Events Division (PROSE); Economic Vitality Division; Beautification and Public Art Commission; Sustainability Commission.

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

Sustainability staff mainly worked with PROSE to review and update mowing protocols in right-of-ways and street-scape areas in order to protect milkweeds. PROSE has a greenhouse dedicated to starting native and pollinator-friendly seeds, which are then planted in parks and designated "open spaces" within Flagstaff. Also, the landscaping company we contract for community garden maintenance is instructed to leave native plants and pollinator species intact.

## 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.**

Coconino Master Gardeners, Flagstaff Foodlink (Colton Community Garden), Terra BIRDS, Willowbend Environmental Education Center, Arizona Milkweeds for Monarchs, Students for Sustainable Living and Urban Gardening @ Northern Arizona University, Monarch Society, Flagstaff Arboretum.

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

Educational flyers and workshops, specifically around Pollinator Week (mid-June), have been the main mode of communicating conservation efforts of Monarch butterflies. Also, every pollinator planting that has been co-hosted by the City of Flagstaff has included milkweed species.

## 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)**

Around 200 plants were distributed across multiple plant sale and seed swap events in 2025.

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

45

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

Coconino Master Gardeners, Flagstaff Public Library, Flagstaff Arboretum, Lily of the Field, Coconino Cooperative Extension (University of Arizona), Flagstaff Foodlink.

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

25

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Horsetail Milkweed, Showy Milkweed, Pineneedle Milkweed were propagated.

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

Monarch Society, PROSE, AZ Milkweeds for Monarchs.

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

The Sustainability division worked with Milkweeds for Monarchs for sourcing seed for pollinator starts and plantings. This organization specifically propagates milkweeds in the Flagstaff area and has ongoing research dedicated to the phenology of pollinator species.

## 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 currently pollinator-friendly plots at each community garden in Flagstaff, AZ (Bonito 527 W Elm Ave., Southside - 900 S. O'Leary St, and Hal Jensen - 2403 N Izabel St), as well as City Hall - 211 West ASpen St., Heritage Square - pin: Flagstaff, AZ 86001, Sustainability Office 419 N. Mogollon St., Bushmaster Park - 3150 N Alta Vista Dr., Citizen's Cemetery - 1300 S San Francisco St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 , the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Shop - 600 N Thorpe Rd., and the Murdoch Center - 203 E Brannen Ave.

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

The main organization we work with to maintain these gardens year-round is PROSE. They start seeds in a greenhouse in early Spring and plant the seedlings at most locations described above. The other gardens' plots were planted by various volunteers and staff of the respective organization's spaces.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

**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.**

0.6

## 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)**

PROSE is responsible for planting pollinator plants in roadside and right-of-way areas. These areas may change from year to year as needed, but are maintained throughout the year.

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

150

**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.**

0.1

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

These areas are maintained on a case-by-case basis, however PROSE avoids mowing milkweeds and other pollinator species when landscaping such areas. They are also mindful of the growing season in which these species are at peak blooming and seed dropping.

## 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?**

Terra Birds, PROSE, Flagstaff Arboretum, Milkweed for Monarchs, Monarch Society, Lily of the Field, Coconino Cooperative Extension (University of Arizona), Coconino Master Gardeners

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

130

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

Workshops, plantings, and educational events provided opportunities for both hands-on planting and community learning through extensive collaborations. PROSE, the Arboretum, Lily of the Field, and Milkweeds for Monarchs started the pollinator seeds, then Terra BIRDS, Coconino Cooperative Extension, and Coconino Master Gardeners planted and maintained the plants. These partnerships are essential in such efforts, because the Sustainability Office would not be able to maintain pollinator habitat conservation efforts alone.

## 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.**

Flyer A.png

**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)**

100

**What was the date of your festival?**

June 15th, 2025

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

Flagstaff Arboretum and Arizona Public Service

**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).**

Rather than a monarch - specific festival, the event that was hosted celebrated pollinators as a whole - "Pollinator Fest". From 10am - 2pm, there were educational presentations reviewing beekeeping, the iNaturalist app, and the new Arizona Audubon Database of Bird and Pollinator Friendly Plants. There was also a pollinator plant sale, an art display, and several community organization tables. Though the event was held on Father's Day, like last year, it was a wonderful day activity for all families in Flagstaff.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

## 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.

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

PROSE and the City's Sustainability Commission

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

Still in-progress

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

PROSE and the Sustainability Office work together to maintain existing spaces for pollinators as well as increase the number of native vegetation planted in Flagstaff. Landscaping protocols are a key component of the PROSE workload, being sensitive of pollinator-friendly species. Though these are informal, they pave the way towards the introduction of official planting ordinances at the city level. A hopeful target date is 2027, to allow staff to coordinate and plan this effort.

## 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 Sustainability Office continued to support the Flagstaff Green School Yards initiative - this program promotes the building and maintenance of green spaces at schools, like raised beds, pollinator garden, and greenhouses.

**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)**

6

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

Killip Elementary School, Ponderosa High School, Marshall Elementary School, Puente de Hózhó Elementary School, Flagstaff High School, Coconino High School, Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy.

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

The primary resource provided to educators is the Nature Educators for Northern Arizona. This is a group of K-12 educators who collaborate and support each other on activity development and curriculum building at Flagstaff's teaching institutions.

**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).**

350 students and 35 educators (this is a very rough estimate).

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

Terra BIRDS, Flagstaff Unified School District, Terra BIRDS, Coconino Cooperative Extension (University of Arizona), AZ Milkweeds for Monarchs, Elevated Gardening.

**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?**

Terra BIRDS works with each school's staff to help maintain the gardens in the summertime.

## Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

before photo.jpg

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

20250613_130755.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

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

20250613_125057.jpg

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

Media - 2025-08-15T145206.037.jpg

**What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.**

40

**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 main program to remove invasive species is the Stream Stewards Program, where community members adopt a section of the Rio de Flag Stream and perform regular invasive species removal throughout a two-year commitment. Additionally, there is an annual watershed clean-up series that is held from June to September, where volunteers are recruited to help remove trash and invasives along various washes and streams across the Rio de Flag watershed. Also, the Sustainability Office partnered with PROSE to lead a cleanup of the area around Ruby Earth urban farm, focusing mostly on invasives.

## 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.**

10-50.70.pdf

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

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Dark Skies Association, Lowell Observatory, Coconino Astronomical Society

**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.**

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]

Flagstaff continues it's historical legacy as being one of the first "International Dark Sky Cities". The city was actually awarded 2025 Dark Sky Place of the Year for maintaining its stewardship of the night skies since 1958.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u736:v1.14.0.49966]