City of Palm Springs

Palm Springs, CA

Mayor Lisa Middleton

Pledge Summary

The City of Palm Springs pledges to helping Monarch butterflies and other pollinators through City initiatives. Since Monarch caterpillars will only feed on milkweed, the City of Palm Springs Maintenance Department has planted milkweed plants at city parks, City Hall, the Community Garden and in medians throughout the City.

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 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.

Systems Change

- 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 Ron deHarte	2025	1/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein	2024	3/28/2024	Signatories

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Mayor Lisa Middleton	2022	3/8/2022	Signatories
Mayor of Palm Springs Christy Holstege	2021	5/11/2021	Signatories

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.).

300

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.)

250 adults and 50 youth

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.

0.5

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Public facility landscapes, community gardens, medians

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

Our materials are available in English and in Spanish, and we are working to extend monarch-friendly habitats throughout our city, but we hope to engage all communities further in 2023.

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

The City of Palm Springs uses the Mayor's Monarch Pledge as a beacon for our efforts throughout our community to improve habitats for native species, including the monarch. Programs supporting the Pledge are a great entry point for community members who want to help maintain Palm Springs as a welcoming habitat for wildlife.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Our community members respond well to things like seed giveaways and informational pamphlets, and our City staff to best practices from other municipalities. We would love to continue to leverage best practices and other resources to help us expand access to nature perhaps beyond the scope of what limited staffing in a small municipality might allow - for example, how can we continue to develop low-maintenance natural areas so that we can expand more of them across our city?

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

We had a relatively rapid and complete staff transition in the early fall of 2022, resulting in an entirely new team managing this portfolio. As a result, we have some data gaps for 2022 activities, but we will continue to track more thoroughly and advance pledge actions for 2023.

Selected Action Items

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.)

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

Planting monarch gardens is a key component of our Farmers Market outreach strategy. Monthly, we host a table at the market where we distribute bookmarks embedded with milkweed seeds and give residents advice about planting these gardens. The materials and our outreach staff are available to provide guidance in English and in Spanish.

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)

The demonstration garden is located in front of the Palm Springs Airport, which is not a specifically relevant location to the monarch but is a high-visibility location for local residents and visitors, who pass it upon each entrance to and exit from the airport.

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

Our primary partner for this garden was our local water utility, Desert Water Agency.

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.

0.25

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.

Work with these departments predates current staff in Parks, Facilities, and Sustainability, so we are not able to detail those efforts for this year's survey.

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

Work with these departments predates current staff in Parks, Facilities, and Sustainability, so we are not able to detail those efforts for this year's survey. However, milkweed is an approved plant in our local planting guidelines, and we use it in medians and in buffer zones for parks extensively.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

We engage with Palm Springs's fifty Neighborhood Organizations through the ONE-PS (Organized Neighborhoods of Palm Springs) community convenings and committees. HOAs are also active participants in their Neighborhood Organizations.

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

City staff have presented information in ONE-PS meetings to make recommendations on monarch gardens and maintenance programs, and they have offered advice to any who present questions at these convenings.

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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?

Palm Springs Community Garden members

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

50

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We maintain a robust milkweed presence in some plots at the Palm Springs Community Garden, located in our most highly used park.

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

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

City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission

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.

Members of the Palm Springs Sustainability Commission presented potential updates to our existing Dark Sky Ordinance that can continue to help migrating birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

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