City of Palm Springs

Palm Springs, CA

Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein

Pledge Summary

The City of Palm Springs is a desert city located in southern California, within the Coachella Valley. Sheltered by the San Bernadino Mountains to the north, the little San Bernardino Mountains to the east, the Santa Rosa Mountains to the south, and the San Jacinto Mountains to the west, Palm Springs is home to many beautiful and important nature parks, recreational parks, trails, gardens, and other natural areas. Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein of Palm Springs, California has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to continuing the encouragement and promotion of establishing and protecting pollinator habitat throughout the City of Palm Springs.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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

- 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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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
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.).

1100

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.)

100

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

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.

Community Gardens, Parks, Landscaping (Medians, Parkways, etc.), Re-naturalized Areas and Yards

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

We offer community outreach sessions to residents regarding changes in landscape for public area such as parks, city buildings, streets, etc. We offer community members space to be part of the decision process when it comes to creating habitat. We also participate in monarch friendly planting give always. These outreach events are always additionally done in areas that are considered disadvantaged.

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

Our city is located in the summer migratory path for Monarchs, so the community has a deep appreciation and commitment for their health and well-being.

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?

Social media has been a great tool for promoting awareness and resources for Monarch information. We are able to raise awareness about Monarchs and suggest resources that are nearby for community members to become involved.

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

Over the last year the community was worked hard to reduce the amount of water-consuming grass and replace it with desert friendly pollinator plants.

Selected Action Items

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:

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

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Community outreach groups and the City's Sustainability 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.

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The draft of the Parks Master Plan is currently in queue to be reviewed and adopted by the city council. This action is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2025.

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.

The City has worked with the local master gardeners and other desert native pollinator plant advocates.

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

These groups have donated to the City to plant more milkweed plants in public spaces to create habitat, as well as worked together to do educational outreach at local events such as the local Farmer's Market.

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.

We engaged with community members through social media and attending local events such as our local farmer's markets. We have educated our local community garden members on where the can locally get native milkweeds and other pollinator 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.

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

ParksMasterPlan Outreach Example.png

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.

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10 participated in this action.

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

The parks and recreation department has been working on the City's parks master plan and has facilitated numerous working groups, whom have expressed desires for the city to put pollinator gardens in the various parks and to be implemented. This measure is currently in the draft and to be executed in Spring of 2025.

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

Local master gardeners, milkweed advocates and the City's Sustainability Department

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

10

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The local master gardeners donated milkweed that was planted in the City's community garden. The sustainability department also host space at the local farmer's market for native milkweed plants to be donated to community residents.

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)

Palm Springs Airport and Palm Springs Animal Shelter

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

This is an ongoing effort that was supported by the City, the local water agency and the animal shelter.

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.

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