City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth, TX

Mayor Mattie Parker

Pledge Summary

Fort Worth is a city in North Central Texas. The city is located along a major monarch migration route and is situated where the Texas Cross Timbers meet the Great Plains, giving rise to its motto “Where the West Begins.” It is home to over 250 parks and the Trinity River Basin, offering prime monarch habitat. Mayor Price of Fort Worth has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors’ Monarch Pledge and looks forward to continuing an ongoing program of new monarch habitats and community education on monarch conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

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- 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 pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Mattie Parker	2023	3/24/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Mattie Parker	2022	3/9/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Mattie Parker	2021	5/24/2021	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

5000

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.)

approximately 2000 youth and 3000 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.

7

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.

schools, fw zoo, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and community parks.

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

Through community gardens, schools, and community park activities.

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

For the greater good of the Monarchs. This has also given us an opportunity for community engagement.

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 resources most helpful to us have been the community partnerships and moving forward we would love to grow those partnerships.

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

This has been an amazing opportunity for our community and we're collectively excited about what we've accomplished.

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Selected Action Items

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

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)

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

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to

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increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

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

When did this challenge take place?

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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

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.

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

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?

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

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

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below.

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

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.

Monarch Pic 37.png

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

Monarch Pic 38.png

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

Monarch Pic 1.png

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

NPSOT maintains a Facebook page for local native plant enthusiasts to discuss events such as plant sales, educational classes, volunteer opportunities, and monthly meetings. People also post pictures of native Texas plants, ask questions, and get answers. The FWBG|BRIT Facebook page often includes posts about monarchs, other pollinators, and the native plants that support them. NPAT consistently promotes pollinator gardens on their social media. TRWD provides adult education classes on Gardening for Pollinators throughout the year, does giveaways of native seed packets and native plants, and attends events to promote gardening with native plants and for local pollinators, including Monarchs.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Monarch Pic 25.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 26.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 27.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 28.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 29.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 30.png

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

6

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

FWBG|BRIT added additional signage to the Pollinator Pathway garden that features information about various pollinators (monarchs, bees, hummingbirds) and the plants that support them. The newest introductory sign that was installed in October was damaged during installation, so there is currently no photo. These are photos of the existing signs that are supported by the newest one.

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.

NPAT worked with the Wedgwood Growers who supported the Wedgwood Garden Club with spring and fall plant sales where native pollinator plants and some milkweed were

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sold.

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.

Monarch Pic 18.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 19.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 20.jpg

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

Fort Worth Parks and Recreation Department, The Fort Worth Zoo, Partners for Fish & Wildlife, and TRWD.

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

Fort Worth Park and Recreation department removed invasive Japanese Privet from a prairie restoration site along the Trinity River in 2019. The Fort Worth Zoo was able to plant 5 pounds of native grass (Prairie Wildrye) seed in October 2021. Funded by the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. TRWD maintains several no-mow zones along the Trinity River floodway and levees that it maintains in Tarrant County. TRWD also has a grant program that supports native plant and pollinator gardens at city facilities.

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.

NPSOT, NPAT, Texas Parks and Wildlife, TRWD, Tarrant County Master Gardners, and CTMN

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

NPSOT provided native milkweed seedling plants at cost from Monarch Watch to the public in the spring. NPAT is involved in a new effort to start a Nine Natives campaign in the DFW metroplex, and they are working to recruit other organizations' participation. Houston has already had great success with this campaign. NPSOT, NPAT, Texas Parks and Wildlife, CTMN, and other organizations will be supporting this effort. They will be finding local nurseries to supply plants and will probably start with a design contest to engage the public and local landscape architects. TRWD works with the Tarrant County Master Gardeners to provide education about and giveaway seeds and plants for pollinator gardens.

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.

NPAT

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

NPAT received inquiries about a pocket prairie installation. NPAT gives advice to these groups on prairies and invites them to their Prairie Seekers training. The training occurs several times per year, and members of that HOA attended the training.

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.

Monarch Pic 3.png.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 9.png

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

Monarch Pic 34.jpg

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

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Monarch Pic 33.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 32.png

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

Monarch Pic 4.png.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 10.jpg

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

FWBG|BRIT, Juan Velazquez, and Jen Rose.

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).

54000

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).

FWBG|BRIT commissioned a local Fort Worth artist, Juan Velazquez, to paint two murals in September that feature pollinators and native plants. An installation by Texas artist Jen Rose featured her hand-crafted Bee Cups that provide water to bees and other pollinators. Texas Bee Oasis was on display in the Fuller Garden of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden from May 2-November 28, 2021. FWBG|BRIT gift shops also sold packs of the Bee Cups for guests to bring home to install in their own yards.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Monarch Pic 5.png.jpg

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

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Monarch Pic 12.png

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

About 75 packets of native seeds were given away.

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?

FWBG|BRIT also held a spring plant sale that included native species. A total of 614 people made purchases at the spring and fall plant sales. Approximately 800 native plants were sold. Other organizations that participated included Master Gardeners and several growers that included native plants in their offerings (Michael Pavlovsky, Wyler Greenhouses, Iris Society).

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.

Monarch Pic 15.jpg

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)

SW Courthouse and SW Library. The courthouse has a prairie restoration with native plants around the building. The library has a native plant pollinator garden. It is also supported by the Master Gardeners Association. It is about 0.12 acres. It is also about 0.26 acres and is supported by the Master Gardeners Association.

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

NPSOT, SW Courthouse, and SW Library

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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.26

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 Fort Worth Zoo will continue its relationships and work with several Fort Worth schools (both public and private) that have butterfly gardens.

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)

3

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

North Elementary, North Hi Mount Elementary, and Western Hills Primary.

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

. Educational content as well as a channel for funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The Zoo holds and distributes the funding for North Hi Mount Elementary, FWISD, and North Elementary STEAM Academy, WSISD. Acreage is small (less than 1 acre) but reaches hundreds of kids and staff.

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).

1130+

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

Fort Worth Zoo and Fort Worth ISD

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

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(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.

.5

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

The school has a part-time STEM educator who supervises maintenance with students and volunteers throughout the year, including summer. Students are responsible for planning, planting, weeding and maintaining the garden. Our STEM educator does most watering.

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.

Monarch Pic 18.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 23.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 35.jpg

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

Approximately 1 acre

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.

Fort Worth Park and Recreation department removed invasive Japanese Privet from a prairie restoration site along the Trinity River in 2019. The Fort Worth Zoo was able to plant 5 pounds of native grass (Prairie Wildrye) seed in October 2021. Funded by the Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program.

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.

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

Monarch Pic 8.png.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 21.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 22.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 24.jpg

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)

200

What was the date of your festival?

October 23, 2021

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

FWBG|BRIT, NPSOT, and TRWD.

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).

FWBG|BRIT hosted the annual Monarch Festival on October 23rd. NPSOT and TRWD also participated. We gave out butterfly books, bookmarks with information about native plants, native seeds, reusable straws, and more items! Kids participated in activities that taught them about monarch migration, monarch lifecycle, and identifying milkweeds. This event was free to the public.

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must

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incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

December 7, 2021

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

Monarch Butterfly Day 2021

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Monarch Butterfly Day 2021.jpg

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.

Monarch Pic 7.png

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

Monarch Pic 6.png

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

Monarch Pic 13.png

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

Monarch Pic 14.jpg

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

200

What species were collected or propagated?

Unspecified

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

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FWBG|BRIT, Northwest ISD Outdoor Learning Center, NPSOT, Southwest Nature Preserve,

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

FWBG|BRIT staff participated in a plant rescue effort with the Northwest ISD Outdoor Learning Center to save milkweed and other native plants before construction commenced on a lot in Northlake, Texas. Milkweeds were transplanted to the Pollinator Pathway at the Botanic Garden. Jim Domke of NPSOT also rescued plants for installation at the Southwest Nature Preserve.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

200

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

TRWD

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

TRWD supported a Bioblitz in October that encouraged the identification and logging of Milkweed plants and butterflies on the iNaturalist app.

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.

Monarch Pic 16.jpg

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

Monarch Pic 17.jpg

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

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Fort Worth Zoo

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

100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Fort Worth Zoo planted approximately twenty Antelope-Horn Milkweed (Asclepias Asperula) plugs in the pollinator area of the main parking lot of the Zoo. The Fort Worth Zoo planted an additional native plant area in the Fall of 2021, including at least 15 Antelope-Horn Milkweed (Asclepias asperula). TRWD maintains demonstration gardens on its own Fort Worth campus and demonstration gardens at park and trailhead locations that feature milkweed and other native plants that support butterflies and other local pollinators.

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