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 2022

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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).
- 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.

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

12000

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.)

7000 youth, 5000 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.

3

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.

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Schools, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth Zoo, along the Trinity River, Library, Courthouse

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

Stream buffers are established in every Park district – equitably distributed across the city. Stream buffers provide habitat for all wildlife including pollinators. Stream buffers also reduce erosion and sedimentation, which in turn reduces costly repairs and restoration at taxpayer expense. Reduced mowing saves money and reduces noise and air pollution. At the time of establishing the new buffers, we reached out to adjacent neighborhood associations/HOAs to inform them of the management practice change. We installed signs & created a Natural Areas webpage with FAQs: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/services/natural-areas In addition to the Natural Areas, PARD has added increased litter pick up through contractors. In addition, the annual Monarch Festival and Plant Sale was hosted at FWBG|BRIT, which makes a concerted effort to bring in all communities to enjoy nature and educational opportunities, including a myriad of avenues that allow low-income residents to receive free admission.

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

The mayor and staff know this is the right thing to do not only for the monarchs but also for our current residents and future generations. The City of Fort Worth recently adopted an Open Space Conservation Plan and is in the process of creating its first Urban Forestry Master Plan. With an existing emphasis on conservation of vital greenspaces in a growing city that future generations can enjoy, the Mayors' Monarch Pledge perfectly aligns with and expands onto those goals. Fort Worth is also home to the FWBG|BRIT team, which serves as a conservation powerhouse in the community and leads on the effort.

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?

This year, the City of Fort Worth joined Trust for Public Land's 10-Minute Walk to Park initiative and was selected to be part of their Park Equity Accelerator program. Both efforts are centered around creating more access to more greenspace so that all residents can enjoy the benefits of nature in their neighborhoods. I would like to see better access to quality milkweed seeds or plants for all of our Fort Worth residents. Maybe lists of places to obtain these trusted materials could be compiled on the website. I would love to have resources to which residents can be pointed that provide reputable information about why certain milkweeds are better to plant than others.

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

Establishment of stream buffers (108 acres) and wildflower areas (34 acres) has resulted in 142 acres added as Natural Areas in 2022.

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Selected Action Items

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.

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.

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

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

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).

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

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

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.

FWBG Plant Sale Monarch and Pollinator Plants List.pdf

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

Monarch Celebration 2022.pdf

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)

150

What was the date of your festival?

10/8/2022

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

Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Tarrant Regional Water District, Native Plant Society of Texas (North Central Texas Chapter)

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).

The Monarch Celebration was held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, in conjunction with the Garden's fall plant sale. FWBG|BRIT table handed out books about monarchs and lists of plants for monarchs and other pollinators. Pollinator plants (including milkweed) from the sale were brought to the table to talk about with guests. TRWD hosted several tables. At one, children made a craft relating to the lifecycle of butterfly. They also gave out native seeds and other fun items. NPSOT gave out several items, including seeds. They provided guests with lots of information about native plants. The event ran for 3 hours on a Saturday morning and was free to all guests.

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?

Fort Worth Zoo, Native Plant Society of Texas

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

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100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Approximately 100 native plants were either purchased or relocated and planted in two areas.

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.

Trinity River after Privet Removal.JPG

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

4

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.

City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department (Park Operations) performed invasive species treatment of 2.5 acres at Tandy Hills Natural Area (3325 View St, Fort Worth, TX 76103) and treatment of invasive species (Johnsongrass) at Love Circle Park (7400 Jacksboro Hwy, Fort Worth 76135). Received $1000 award from participating in Parks for Pollinators bioblitz. The money was used to purchase native prairie seed, which will be sown at Love Circle Park or other parks needing rehab. The Fort Worth Zoo is also working on a pollinator area. They have cleared 1.2 acres of invasive privet and worked with Native American Seed to create a native grass seed mix. 15 pounds of native grass and pollinator mixes were used to reseed along the Trinity River.

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.

Native Plant Society of Texas (North Central Chapter), Fort Worth Garden Club

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

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NPSOT participated in various events around town throughout the year, providing useful information about the benefits of native plants and giveaway items (such as native seed packets) to members of the public. They also held native plant sales and helped other organizations to procure native Monarch-supporting plants for their own projects. The Fort Worth Garden Club helped support the StoryWalk of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's Pollinator Pathway, which featured a book about Monarchs this fall.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Fort Worth Zoo Native Habitat Sign.png

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

Natural Area - Riparian - FINAL.png

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

Natural Area - Wildflowers - FINAL.png

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

26

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

City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department (Park Operations) developed Natural Areas designation and signage for Riparian and Wildflower areas. 24 signs are displayed at 11 different City parks. Developed Naturally Fort Worth! webpage and content with FAQs (https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/services/natural-areas). The Fort Worth Zoo is displaying 2 educational signs - one in the Zoo's visitor parking lot and one close to a walking trail where invasive privet was removed. See attached image.

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.

Casino Beach in Spring.jpg

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

City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department (Park Operations), City of Fort Worth

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

PARD Park Operations: Natural Areas Program - Established natural area buffer zones in 7 parks and wildflower areas in 2 parks. Installed signage and developed webpage with FAQs. Established photo points and initiated stream water quality sampling. At Casino Beach park, the mowing schedule was altered to only one time per year in late winter, rather than the old schedule that called for mowing from July 4 through the end of the growing season. City of Fort Worth: The City has a new Open Space Conservation Program with the goal of acquiring land (about 172 acres) to remain in its natural state, which will benefit pollinators.

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.

NPSOT Facebook 2022.pdf

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

BRIT Newsletter.pdf

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

City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department (Park Operations) established the Naturally Fort Worth! webpage (https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/services/natural-areas) and created iNaturalist projects for all City parks and Open Space. The Fort Worth Pollinator Ambassadors (130 Facebook members), The North Central Texas Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (6,000 Facebook members) and the Native Prairies Association of Texas (followed by over 7,500 people on Facebook) regularly promote monarchs, other pollinators, and the importance of native plants on their Facebook pages and websites. The BRIT newsletter that is received by nearly 50,000 subscribers sometimes features articles related to native gardening and its benefits.

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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.

Photographing the Monarch Migration.pdf

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

Marigold Carpet.jpg

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

Blocks from Kimball for FWBG marigold carpet.jpg

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

FWBG Day of the Dead Altar 2022.jpg

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

Miguel's Katrina 1.jpg

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

Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Artes de la Rosa, Hispanic Women's Network of Texas (FW Chapter), Fort Worth Sister Cities (Toluca Committee), Federacion de Clubes Zacatecanos de Fort Worth, Mana de North Texas, All Saints Catholic Church, Carrillo Funeral Home, Kimbell Art Museum

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).

45

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).

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The Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas celebrated el Dia de los Muertos as part of its second annual celebration of Hispanic heritage, Celebramos! One story that we like to tell in relation to the Day of the Dead is the significance of the monarch migration. For many people, the monarchs migrating to Mexico represent the souls of their loved ones returning for the Day of the Dead. Marigolds are also thought to lead the souls to the altars created by friends and family. This year, members of the community painted hundreds of wooden blocks with Hispanic folk-art style images that were used to line the marigold carpet that led up to the community altar. A local artist also displayed several katrinas at one of the Celebramos events at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, one of which was covered in monarchs. FWBG|BRIT also hosted a class about monarchs and how to photograph them during their migration.

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.

NPSOT Plant Sale.jpg

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

NPSOT Spring Plant Sale 2022.jpg

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

3000

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

1500

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

2 sales hosted by Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas (not entirely native, but many natives included), 2 sales hosted by Native Plant Society of Texas (North Central Chapter)

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).

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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)

In 3rd year of partnership that continues to coordinate funding (through Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program) for 2 outdoor school classrooms

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)

2

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

North Hi Mount Elementary (FWISD) and North Elementary STEAM Academy (WSISD)

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

The Zoo and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provided information for the schools through examples of other outdoor classrooms and websites that could provide further resources. They also provided seeds for the planting projects. They also helped coordinate a meet-up between the two schools to share information and tour their spaces.

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).

1100 students and 35 educators

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

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

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.

.01

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

North Elementary STEAM Academy is working to establish a parent and volunteer group that will meet monthly to address maintenance needs of the area, starting in spring of 2023. Summertime care will be the biggest concern, while students and faculty are away from campus.

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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.

StoryWalk 1.jpg

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

StoryWalk 4.jpg

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

FWZ 2022 pollinator space.JPG

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

Fort Worth Zoo - restoration of pollinator area.JPG

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

Forest Park Pool plant relocation 2.jpg

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

Forest Park Pool plant relocation.jpg

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

SW Regional Library.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)

Fort Worth Botanic Garden (3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX 76107) - Established in 1934, FWBG is the oldest major botanic garden in Texas. It is an iconic and beloved space in the City of Fort Worth. The Pollinator Pathway is a garden located between the main entrance to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Botanical Research

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Institute of Texas building. We have continued to maintain the Pollinator Pathway and add more milkweeds and other pollinator plants to it this year. The latest book featured in the StoryWalk of the Pollinator Pathway is related to Monarchs. Location 2: Fort Worth Zoo. 1989 Colonial Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76110. An existing pollinator space was maintained this year, and a new one was installed at the Zoo as well. Both FWBG|BRIT and the Fort Worth Zoo are among the most popular places in town to visit, and both were ranked in the top 3 places to take kids in and around Fort Worth by KidsOutAndAbout.com this year. The North Central Chapter of NPSOT also helped maintain two demonstration gardens at the Southwest Sub-Courthouse (6551 Granbury Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76133) and at the Fort Worth Southwest Regional Public Library (4001 Library Ln, Fort Worth, TX 76109) that each contain milkweed and other pollinator plants. The Southwest Regional Library Native Plant Demonstration Garden is a Tarrant County Master Gardener project that is sponsored by the NPSOT North Central Chapter.

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

Fort Worth Botanic Garden|Botanical Research Institute of Texas, the Native Plant Society of Texas, and the Fort Worth Garden Club helped support the Pollinator Pathway. The Native Plant Society of Texas provided a $400 grant to the Zoo to help in the restoration of the pollinator garden in the main parking area of the Zoo (picture attached). Plants were also relocated from the NPSOT demonstration garden at Forest Park Pool (overseen by City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department) to the new pollinator area at the Fort Worth Zoo.

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.

.75

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:

8/3/2022

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

Monarch Butterfly Day in the City of Fort Worth

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Monarch Butterfly Day 2022.pdf

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