Bella Vista

Bella Vista, AR

Mayor Peter Christie

Pledge Summary

Bella Vista is a city with numerous parks, trails and a very active gardening community nestled in the Ozarks in northwest Arkansas. Last year we planted numerous pollinator plants and plan to continue to do so in 2022. We have seen an increase in the monarch population within our city and look forward to continuous growth. We are proud to be part of the Mayor's Pledge and encourage others to join.

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.
- 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.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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

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- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor John Flynn	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor John Flynn	2025	3/5/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Flynn	2024	2/14/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor John Flynn	2023	2/3/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Peter Christie	2022	3/14/2022	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.).

16

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.)

All are 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.

0.12

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.

Trailheads, community gardens, schools, and parks and residences.

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

Bella Vista has over 100 soft surface trails and attracts thousands of visitors annually. Trailhead pollinator beds and educational kiosk are highly visible and open to the public free of charge for all to enjoy and serve as a channel for advocacy.

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

To set an example and precedence for helping with the survival of the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators.

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?

Plant material, land, monarch seed and volunteers have been most helpful. I would like to see more articles about the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators life cycle and ecosystem services that they provide.

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

We are a small retirement community with a changing the demographic and have just begun with this effort.

Selected Action Items

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

100 Mile Back40 Trail Map.jpg

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

Back40 Trailhead.jpg

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

Bella Vista's Tree Advisory Board discussion, City Staff

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

In process

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

City of Bella Vista Tree Advisory Board discussion and review of City landscape requirements with City of Bella Vista Planning Staff (public zoom meeting) and internal discussion among City staff. Target Completion date 2023.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Buckingham Pollinator Kiosk.jpg

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

Buckingham Plant ID Kiosk.jpg

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

Blowing Springs Pollinator Kiosk.jpg

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

Blowing Springs Wildflower Kiosk.jpg

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

4

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

(2) at Buckingham Trailhead and (2) at Blowing Springs Trailhead

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

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

trees along snowbird.jpg

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

Trees Along Greenway.jpg

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

Trees Along Road.jpg

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

Tree Giveaway.jpg

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

Three, City of Bella Vista Tree Advisory Board Members, City Staff and Bella Vista Property Owner Association (POA) , Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalist.

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

Native trees and pollinator habitat have been planted along the trail system and further discussions are in progress. 200 people were reached at the annual give-a-way with free milkweed packets.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

RE_ City_POA tree planting - 2022.pdf

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

trees along snowbird.jpg

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

Trees Along Greenway.jpg

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

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Blowing Springs arboretum Pollinator Beds.jpg

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Native Trees, including flowering trees, were planted were planted along the Blowing Springs to Metfield greenway (within the Right-of-Way) along Euston Road for about 1.64 miles. A total of 73 trees were planted. Coordinates for greenway (farthest west point, middle, farther east point): 36.4466909903122, -94.21863652676001 36.445909853345825, -94.20437403438233 36.45254926686297, -94.19439028971794

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

73

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.

4 Acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

They are all native so maintenance is negligible. Watering as necessary.

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:

March 14, 2022

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation 2022.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

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buckingham1.jpg

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

Mercy Community Garden.jpg

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

Group.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

>NW Arkansas Master Naturalist planted pollinator plants and maintained pollinator planting beds at the City of Bella Vista's Buckingham trailhead. >NW Arkansas Master Naturalist planted swamp milkweed and prepared pollinator beds with Cooper Elementary school for kids. >NW Arkansas Master Naturalist helped plant and maintain pollinator beds at the Mercy Clinic Community Garden. >NW Arkansas Master Naturalist maintain a greenhouse and each year grow plants from seed to plants that are ready to be planted in the ground. >NW Arkansas Master Naturalist maintain a natural area for pollinators and pollinator beds at Blowing Springs (removal of invasive plants, weeds, etc.).

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.

Tree Giveaway 2.jpg

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

Tree Giveaway.jpg

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

Tree Giveaway Car.jpg

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

Buckingham Plant ID Kiosk.jpg

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

Buckingham Pollinator Kiosk.jpg

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

>City of Bella Vista >Bella Vista Tree Advisory Board >Property Owners Association (POA)

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

>City of Bella Vista gave out 400 native trees and shrubs that serve as host plants and nectar sources for pollinators at their spring and fall tree giveaways. >City of Bella Vista Tree Advisory Board gave out 100 packets of Swamp Milkweed seed at the fall tree giveaway to local residents. >Tree Advisory Board discussed and identified pollinator educational projects and locations for pollinator plantings. >Tree Advisory Board urged city staff to incorporate pollinator plantings including milkweed in their maintenance program of trails. >Tree Advisory Board urged city staff to revise city landscape requirements to incorporate a majority of native plants and highly suggest milkweed in every landscape.

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.

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

Group.jpg

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

Two groups. Master Naturalist, Tree Advisory Board, City staff

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

The City of Bella Vista has partnered with local chapter of Master Naturalist to plant and maintain pollinator beds. The Master Naturalist work with the local school and hospital to establish pollinator beds and community gardens. The City of Bella Vista's Tree Advisory Board has televised discussions about the importance of native trees, shrubs and other pollinator plants to the survival of the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators and how pollinators play and important role in ecosystem services. The Tree Advisory Board members gave away 100 packets of milkweed seed. City of Bella Vista gave away 400 native trees and flowering shrubs at the spring and fall tree giveaway events.

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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.

PHOTO 2.jpg

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

BSarboretum1.jpg

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

Mercy Community Garden.jpg

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

buckingham1.jpg

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

Blowing Springs Pollinator Kiosk.jpg

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

Blowing Springs Wildflower Kiosk.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)

Planted and maintained pollinator beds at Buckingham Trailhead, a highly visible trailhead location.

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

Master Naturalist

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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.

.01

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.

PHOTO.jpg

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

PHOTO 2.jpg

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

Group.jpg

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

NW Arkansas Master Naturalist and Mercy Clinic

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

128

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Helped to coordinate with NW Arkansas Master Naturalist and public volunteers to plant and maintain pollinator beds at the Mercy Clinic Community Garden. 20 Pollinator Plants have been planted at the Mercy Community Garden and 108 pollinators have been planted in the pollinator beds at the Buckingham Trail.

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?

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Bella Vista Tree Advisory Board and City staff

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.

Discussions are under way. The target day to complete action is 2023.

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