City of Riverside

Riverside, CA

Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson

Pledge Summary

The City of Riverside has a proud history of promoting healthy living spaces including native plants and fostering areas of growth for natural habitats for insects and wildlife. With a population of roughly 326,000, the city is home to the historic Mission Inn Hotel & Spa, the beautiful Santa Ana River and UCR Botanical Gardens. Mayor Lock Dawson of has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city. This year, we plan on issuing a proclamation to raise awareness, hosting or supporting a native seed sale or swap, displaying educational signage, and updating city landscaping ordinances where applicable to increase the usage of native plants.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Systems Change

- 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 Patricia Lock Dawson	2026	3/6/2026	
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson	2025	3/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson	2022	4/19/2022	

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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.).

2

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.)

0

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

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.

City Hall and the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District Foraging and Breeding Habitat.

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

We are in the process of developing more community engagement for this effort. Marginalized communities will be at the forefront of consideration.

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

The City of Riverside established the Office of Sustainability in the summer of 2024. The office came across the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and realized the Mayor had previously participated. We decided to take this under our wing and have mainly committed to engaging with previous efforts while planning for more constant engagement in this 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?

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The most helpful resources have been internal. We've referred to previous commitments to begin those once again. We'd love to see more "kit" or guidelines for specific engagement

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

The efforts over this last year have been slowly taken over by the Sustainability Office. Our commitments for 2025 prioritized completed efforts and more administrative engagement, hence the lack of community outreach. We plan to ramp up the planning phase as we reevaluate our commitments for 2026.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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

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

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:

05/20/2025

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation.pdf

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

PXL_20260127_164844280.MP.jpg

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)

Riverside City Hall (3900 Main St, Riverside, CA 92501)

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

N/A

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.

0.03

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

2

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

The signs describe the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly and their migration patterns. They also outline the fact that Monarch Butterflies are on the brink of extinction, why that is, and the different strategies one can utilize to help them recover. These include planting native milkweed, eliminating pesticides, growing flowering plants, and tracking milkweed and monarchs.

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.

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

N/A

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

Complete

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.

2/5/2019. This ordinance is Chapter 19.570 Water Efficient Landscaping and Irrigation. It covers the importance of utilizing native plants that are not only climate resilient but that maintain the region's habitat.

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