City of Houston

Houston, TX

Mayor Sylvester Turner

Pledge Summary

The City of Houston contains a land area of 671 square miles and has a population of 2.3 million people. The city is located near the gulf coast and contains and is surrounded by multiple ecoregions, including coastal prairies and marshes, pineywoods, Columbia bottomlands, and post oak savannah. Mayor Turner has committed to working to save the monarch butterfly through numerous conservation efforts throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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).
- 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.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor John Whitmire	2026	4/7/2026	
Mayor John Whitmire	2025	3/24/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sylvester Turner	2023	3/23/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sylvester Turner	2022	2/3/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Sylvester Turner	2021	1/22/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

500

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.)

200 Youth, 300 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.

28

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.

parks

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

Community involvement in habitat restoration projects

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

Assistance with promoting the importance of habitat restoration within the city.

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?

Promotion and recognition of projects being implemented by the city.

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

We have a significant native plant propagation program where we hand collect from remnant prairies to propagate and install into our restoration projects.

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Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

3

What species were collected or propagated?

asclepias viridis

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

N/A

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

Our staff hand collects milkweed and other native prairie species to propagate in our greenhouse. We also have partnered with NRCS to plant hundreds of milkweed into our prairies.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

City Hall Annex parking lot

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.

.05

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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?

N/A

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

NWF Community Wildlife Habitat Program

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

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

NATURAL AREA ORDINANCE (AMENDED)_1730.1_APRIL 2021.pdf

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.

Amended 4-5-2021

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)

Cancelled due to Covid safety concerns.

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

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0

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

N/A

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?

Gardeners of Freed Community Garden

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

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Addition of pollinator garden to Freed Community Garden

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

30

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.

Removal of non-native forest to reestablish prairie habitat at Blackhawk Park, Sylvan Rodriguez Park, and Robert C Stuart Park. Invasive species removal methods included use of hydroax contractor to chip and mulch invasive trees. Herbicide contractors (trained environmental consulting firms only) to spot treat vasey grass and Chinese tallow (no broadcast spraying). Student crews and staff used hand tools to remove invasive understory species.

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