City of Dalworthington Gardens

Dalworthington Gardens, TX

Mayor Laurie Bianco

Pledge Summary

The City of Dalworthington Gardens, Texas is a rural oasis in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. The City covers an area of almost 2 square miles and has a population of approximately 2,200. A 43 acre park includes a lake and offers a chance for people to relax and enjoy being in nature. Mayor Bianco of Dalworthington Gardens first took the Mayor's Monarch Pledge in 2019. 8 action items were pledged to qualify the City as part of the Leadership Circle, a status that we continue to work to maintain in order to raise awareness in the community and encourage conservation practices to support the monarch butterfly. A garden in Gardens Park was reworked in response to one of the first year's action items. It now better supports monarch butterflies on their migration and has received designation as a Monarch Waystation.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2026	2/11/2026	Leadership Circle
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2025	1/17/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2024	1/22/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2023	3/13/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2022	2/23/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Laurie Bianco	2021	1/25/2021	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.).

50

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.)

20 youth and 30 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

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.

No additional habitat was created on public property and we do not have data collection that allows us to capture what might be happening on private property.

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

We are equal opportunity when it comes to engagement but we do not specifically target any one group, marginalized or not.

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

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DWG's tag line is "A rural oasis in the heart of the metroplex". We feel that working on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge fits in with the culture of our city. This is in addition to the obvious answer of wanting to help do our small part to ensure a future in which monarchs thrive.

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?

Informational handouts from Journey North have been very helpful. We do not know what other resources to request at this time.

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

We have noticed more comments during migration from citizens about monarch butterfly and caterpillar sightings so I believe we are increasing awareness. Note that the number of people reached is likely incomplete since we are not able to capture data on how many people we engage through social media or kiosk postings.

Selected Action Items

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:

2/23/21

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

A PROCLAMATION By the Mayor of the City of Dalworthington Gardens

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2021 Mayor's Monarch Challenge Proclamation.pdf

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.)

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

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We have laminated several informational sheets relating to monarch migration, citizen science programs, milkweed and more from Monarch Joint Venture. We posted some of them on a kiosk next to a walking path in Gardens park in early March and plan to rotate in others during the rest of the year.

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.

garden club post1.jpg

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

garden club post2.jpg

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

During 2020 members of the DWG Park Board began spring weeding in the monarch waystation garden while socially distancing because our community event had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. People walking by in the park got recruited to adopt sections of the garden. Out of this group was formed a facebook group, Friends of DWG Garden Club. Membership does not require having an adopted section of the monarch garden. This group shares plants, tips and seeds. They are very interested in gardening so we began posting towards the end of March, 2021 about plants the monarch butterflies need during their migrations so that others might add host and nectar plants to their gardens. (See attached screenshots of two such posts.)

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.

CS monarch on flowers.jpg

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

Finnin monarch.jpg

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

unknown monarch art.jpg

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

sky view1.jpg

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

sky view2.jpg

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

sky view3.jpg

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

The DWG Park Board hosted an Earth Day 2021, Restore Our Earth, event on Saturday April 24, 2021.

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).

40

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).

The Park Board purchased supplies and encouraged attendees as part of the event to create chalk art around this year's Earth Day theme in the U.S., Restore Our Earth. The location of this event was held in the area of the monarch waystation garden in Gardens Park. Attendees were treated to the sight of at least a dozen, large monarch caterpillars munching on milkweed. Three participants honored the efforts to restore the monarch butterfly population by creating images of monarch butterflies. The images will remain, to hopefully inspire others using the park to do their part to restore the earth, until weather and sidewalk usage erases them.

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)

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DWG's monarch waystation garden is located in Gardens Park off California Lane between Roosevelt Dr. and Park Dr. It borders one side of part of the main path around the park and both sides of the walk leading to the gazebo.

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

The Horticultural Club from Tarrant County College designed a new look and helped refurbish an existing garden during the summer of 2019. Citizens and staff of DWG also helped prepare the bed and some local students helped plant some of the new additions to the garden. Since then community members, including members of the Friends of DWG Garden Club, have helped maintain the garden.

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.

0.04

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?

A local citizen has been in charge of milkweed planting.

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

13

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

One of our residents dug, transplanted and watered the green milkweed seedlings until they looked like they were established in 2020. At the end of March, 2021, we are waiting to see what comes back before planting more. Two butterfly weed plants were added to the garden in 2019. Update: At least half of the green milkweed plants came back in 2021. No new seedlings were found to transplant into the garden this year. A few new butterfly weed plants were donated to the garden in the fall of 2021. DWG also has a portion of the park called the wildscape in which we have a nice stand of liatris and other native flowering plants. While not a formal garden nor is it a true prairie restoration, it is of benefit to monarchs and other wildlife. Local milkweed seed has been scattered in this area but to date, no green milkweed plants have been identified.

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

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

Covid caused a couple events to be cancelled where the Park Board was planning on giving away native plants. They did mangage to give away about 2 dozen wood violets at their Earth Day event and had plans to distribute some coneflower, liatris and zexmenia at the events that were cancelled.

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

0

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

A couple of DWG citizens propogated & potted up the plants that were and the ones that will one day be given away.

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).

1

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

The Dalworthington Gardens Park Board helps get the word out to citizens.

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

For monarchs, we support Journey North by providing information on a kiosk in our park about their citizen science project and how people can become involved. Note: The number of participating individuals was left blank because this effort does not generate data on the number of participants.

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