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 2023

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.)
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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

- 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.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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Past Pledge Archive

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.).

200

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.)

100 youth; 100 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 to capture habitat created by citizens on their 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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We understand the need to raise awareness to encourage citizens to help the monarch population. We understand the importance monarchs play within the ecosystem, especially with the excessive heat we experienced this past summer. Furthermore, the Mayor's Monarch Pledge fits with our tag line and city's culture: "A rural oasis in the heart of the metroplex".

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?

Information from National Wildlife Federation and MonarchJointVenture.org have been very helpful. We also used Native American Seed to purchase our butterfly retreat seed mix passed out to the public. No other resources to request at this time.

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

We have increased our efforts to educate citizens through our newsletter, educational bookmarks, and butterfly seeds distribution. We are unable to completely capture data on how many people we impact with our efforts as we use multiple sources to reach the community. Those sources include social media, newsletters, City-sponsored events, and 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:

February 16, 2023

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.

2023_Mayor_s_Monarch_Challenge_Proclamation.pdf

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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Please describe your challenge and the results.

The City of DWG has HOA communities within our city limits. We sent a letter to the HOA communities to encourage them to build a sustainable environment and select plants to attract hummingbirds, bees and Monarch butterflies. In addition to the letters, the residents receive our monthly newsletters. The newsletter encourages residents to plant nectar and native milkweed. The newsletter also provided educational information about the migration of the Monarchs.

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.

Lifecycle setup.jpg

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

Lifecycle work.jpg

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

Monarch display table.jpg

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

Monarch lifecycle example.jpg

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

Monarch lifecycle model.jpg

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

We partnered with citizens within our city of Dalworthington Gardens and surrounding areas.

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).

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60

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).

We created a Monarch lifecycle art project for citizens to create during our annual Easter event. We set up a display table with education information related to Monarchs. We also set up an art project table as well with all supplies need to create the project.

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.

IMG_0329.jpg

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

IMG_0352.jpg

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

IMG_0367.jpg

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

IMG_0665.jpg

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

IMG_0666.jpg

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

IMG_0667.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)

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The demonstration 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 a walkway leading up to our gazebo and playground. The Gardens Park is the sole park within the City of Dalworthington Gardens.

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

In 2019, the Horticultural Club from Tarrant County College designed a new look and helped refurbished an existing garden. The DWG Park Board members, staff of DWG, members of the Friends of DWG Garden Club, and several citizen volunteers have helped maintained the gardens.

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.

.04

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.

Seed Mix display.jpg

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

IMG_0892.jpg

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

IMG_0902.jpg

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

trunk or treat.jpg

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

200+

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

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200

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

We partnered with a member of DWG's City Council and the President of the Friends of DWG Gardens club to help pass out the seed packets throughout various Park Board events hosted in the City.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

IMG_0482.jpg

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

IMG_0483.jpg

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

IMG_0510.jpg

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

IMG_0511.jpg

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

IMG_0512.jpg

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

3

What species were collected or propagated?

We collected seeds of the species of asclepias viridis from a local resident's field.

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

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We partnered with a member of DWG's City Council and the President of the Friends of DWG Gardens club.

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

After identification, the milkweed was collected from a local resident's field. We engaged people at our ice cream social event to help separate the milkweed seed from the fluff so that people could take some seed and try planting it. We also expanded our propagation effort from the previous year and broadcasted the collected milkweed into the wildscape located within our park.

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.

August_2023_DWG_Newsletter.pdf

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

Bookmarks.jpg

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

monarch waystation brochure.jpg

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

monarch waystation brochure2.jpg

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

The DWG Park Board has encouraged residents to plant monarch gardens at their residences through our City's monthly newsletter. We highlighted the migration of the monarch butterflies and asked residents to support the monarchs by planting nectar and native milkweed plants. In addition to the newsletter, we also have several informational flyers posted in all the kiosks located along the walking path in Gardens Park. We communicate with citizens during those sponsored events to encourage residents to plant

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similar plants at their homes. Finally, bookmarks and brochures with educational information related to monarchs were passed out during the city-sponsored events.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Milkweed Info Kiosk.jpg

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

Monarch Joint Venture 2 Kiosk.jpg

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

Monarch Joint Venture Kiosk.jpg

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

Pollinators of Texas 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).

The signage we have posted include educational information about the monarch butterflies' migration pattern, their habitats, and the type of pollinators that can be planted to encourage pollinating. The information is posted in our public park inside our kiosk

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.

HOA Monarch Challenge.docx

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

August_2023_DWG_Newsletter.pdf

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

Five Homeowner Associations (HOAs) are within the city limits of DWG.

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

We sent a letter directly to the citizens within each of the HOA communities. The letter encouraged citizens within those HOAs to build a sustainable environment to support the butterflies, bees and other pollinators. The citizens also have received our monthly newsletter in which we also encouraged them to support the monarchs by having nectar plants in their gardens. We do not have data collection to capture monarch gardens and maintenance and mowing programs created by citizens on their private property.

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