City of Richland Hills

Richland Hills, TX

Mayor Ed Lopez

Pledge Summary

The city of Richland Hills is a small community in the middle of the giants in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex. The nearly 9,000 residents are very proud of our small town and county vibe that our city offers. Mayor Lopez approached staff about this opportunity 18 months ago. Since, staff has been adding staff, planning programming and reorganizing the park system to accommodate the execution of fulfilling the tasks of this wonderful program. Our eager citizens already love natural areas and wildlife, so pledging to be a part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge was an exciting possibility for our community. Richland Hills is excited to add wildflower area, nectar gardens, new programs, and community education to our recreation palette to help increase Monarch habitat.

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.
- 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.

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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- 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

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- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Curtis Bergthold	2026	2/5/2026	
Mayor Curtis Bergthold	2025	3/11/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Curtis Bergthold	2024	1/29/2024	
Mayor Ed Lopez	2023	12/19/2022	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.).

245

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.)

190 youth and 55 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.

0.25

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 properties

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

We are using public space that has free access. Additionally, we use programs that typically are utilized by low socio-economic families.

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

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The Mayor actually brought this to my attention.

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?

The general information about the decline and vulnerability of the Monarch on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge website was useful in grabbing attention and building the need. I would love to have access to more lesson plans or activities to share with students and families.

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

This is the City of Richland Hill's first year of programming and planning around Monarch Conservation. There are more plans in place as we continue to increase the awareness to our public, as well as increase the locations of pocket gardens.

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:

January 10, 2023

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

4B Memo - Resolution 569-23 Mayors Monarch Pledge.pdf

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Resolution No. 569-23 Mayors Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.

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4B - Mayors Monarch Pledge 2023.pptx

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

Clean-Up & Green-Up - FB Post.png

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.

IMG_2903.JPG

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

IMG_2960.JPG

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

Clean Lean Green Post.png

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

Local School volunteer groups, 2 local businesses (All-Pro Construction, Institute of Beauty), Scout Troop 335 boys and girls, City's Parks and Recreation Dept., City's Fire Department, Rec Center Afterschool Program

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

All-Pro Construction and Scout Troop 335 both are a part of our Adopt-a-Spot program. During the Clean, Green and Lean event, they both helped to remove unwanted invasive vegetation. The school group, Institute of Beauty, Fire Department, Rec Center Afterschool Program helped to plant milkweed and nectar plants. The Parks and Recreation Department changed the mowing schedule for the wildflower areas to ensure that they were able to drop their seeds.

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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.

Pollinator Garden Class (2).jpeg

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

2023 April.JPG

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

Our city hosted events with a Monarch Conservation Specialist and Master Gardner (Teddi Zonker), as well as an owner of a Wild Birds unlimited. Both of these events were a part of the Rec Department's Second Saturday Seminars.

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

These were educational sessions open to the public. There were 17 people at the Butterfly Garden session and four at the native plant for birds and wildlife session.

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.

Native American Seed - Butterfly Retreat.jpeg

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

Save our Monarchs - Common Milkweed Seed.jpeg

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

16 burr oaks were given to volunteers that were interested. Anyone at the event could take a packet of common milkweed seed from Save our Monarchs. Staff believes that 24 packets were taken.

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

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

This give-a-way was a part of a larger event mentioned earlier, the Clean, Green and Lean. So, staff hosted scout troop 335, volunteer school group, the Parks and Recreation Dept and with individuals in the community. Additionally, the purchase of the seeds was funded by a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT).

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.

Migration Map.jpg

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

Garden for Wildlife - Link Courtyard.JPG

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

Hike and Bike Wildflower Area.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)

Richland Hills is located in North Texas, right along the summer migration path. Within our city, staff tilled land along our city's only hike and bike trail. The secondary location is in a courtyard area behind the city's recreation center. It is in a secure location that can be accessed by our camp and afterschool participants. Additionally, the second location was planned to be a "Garden for Wildlife" location to use as a beautification area that staff explains when booking rentals at our rec center. The bigger wildflower area on the Hike and Bike Trail is located at 7203 Latham Rd. The smaller garden is at 6750 Baker Blvd., the location of The Link Event and Recreation Center.

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

Redundant responses for this. The Hike and Bike trail wildflower area was seeded during the Clean, Green and Lean in April and the Clean-Up and Green-Up in November. So, our

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Adopt-a-Spot participants, scouts, school volunteer groups and afterschool programs participated.

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.

0.25

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

The only sign we have up currently is from Garden for Wildlife. We use the sign that was delivered with the vegetation for onlookers use the QR code to get more information.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

2019-04 Kate Baker Park - Master Plan Concept.pdf

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

City Council, City Manager and Parks and Recreation Dept.

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

In Progress; besides the new wildflower area on the trail, and the new Garden for Wildlife behind the Rec Center, we have 2 more pollinator gardens in our master plan at Windmill and Kate Baker Parks.

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.

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N/A

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

Both of these future Butterfly Gardens are in the current Master Plan established in 2019, but there is not a timeline for funding these amenities yet. Much of Kate Baker Park has been completed or will be this fiscal year, but nothing has been done at Windmill Park to date.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

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What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Staff started a Second Saturday Seminar program that could offer programming in any area (ie. fitness, computer literacy), but staff specifically wanted to use this series as a vehicle to invite people to hear and learn more about the plight of the Monarch. Similarly, the center's afterschool program was offered an opportunity to learn more about Monarchs, as well as to be an active part of improving conservation in our city. That included minor gardening, planting milkweed seeds, and an art/crafts project that coincided with a learning module about Monarchs. Staff did engage with Garden for Wildlife for resources to plant our pollinator garden.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

8

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Our afterschool program includes children from Birdville ISD (Birdville Elementary School, Mullendore Elementary School, Cheney Hills Elementary School, Jack C. Binion Elementary School), East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, Internation Leadership School of TX - North Richland Hills campus, and IDEA Schools - Achieve campus.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

Counselors reached themselves on the NWF site to present to the participants.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

102 students and 9 counselors

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

City Parks and Recreation Department, City Council

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below

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(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.

0.25

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

After seeding the tilled land, staff watered once a week if there was no rain. Staff does not mow during the growing season, March through September.

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.

.25

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.

Simply stated, staff and volunteers (mostly park visitors) offer information about locations of possible invasive species seen in public places. Staff will investigate and remove if able. Staff will post about invasive species on social media, as well as champion native species. The hope is that our public will learn about the importance of having native plants. And more so, the damage that no-natives could do. For maintenance, staff removes privet when found and tries to remove berries of Chinese Pistachio before birds can help disperse.

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