# City of Leander

Leander, TX

Mayor Christine DeLisle

## Pledge Summary

Leander is a city in Williamson County and Travis County with a population of approximately 81,800. Leander offers a unique blend of Texas Hill Country living in the urban Austin metropolitan area with scenic landscapes, wildlife and waterways enjoyed by many of our community residents and visitors.

## 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.)
- 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.
- 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

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

### Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Na' Cole Thompson | 2026 | 3/17/2026 | |
| Mayor Christine DeLisile | 2025 | 2/27/2025 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Christine DeLisile | 2024 | 3/20/2024 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Christine DeLisle | 2023 | 3/10/2023 | Signatories |

## 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.).**

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.)**

50 youths, 450 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.**

2

**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.**

Park common areas

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

Information about our activities is available to everyone in the town through our city web postings. In addition, our events so far are either inclusive to all or include organizations which allow people regardless of socio-economic status, race, or gender or background.

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

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The city has seeks ways to engage residents in constructive programs, including those related to the environment and water conservation. The Monarch Pledge is something we can do that fits with our water conservation programs through its connection with native landscaping.

**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?**

Pre-made pamphlets or other educational materials which could be printed out from a PDF for distribution.

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

We are new to the pledge, but we think we have set a good foundation. We will build on our efforts in the coming year.

## Selected Action Items

### Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

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

**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.**

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

### 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)**

In progress

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

Williamson County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, City Parks

**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.**

.01

## 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:**

March 16, 2023

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

2023-03-16 Monarch Pledge proclamation.pdf

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

Monarch_Twitter_3.17.23.png

## 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.

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

We have engaged with the Williamson County chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas to help promote awareness of native plants and the opportunities they provide for both water conservation and sustaining pollinators. These include an emphasis on the monarch. For example, we hosted a speaker at our activities center in October to talk about native plants. We have also had involvement from the Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) and the local Girl Scouts. PEC, which is our electric utility, and the scouts worked with us to seed some park land in wildflowers in the Spring of 2023.

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

Our pledge announcement was attended some of our girl scouts who took place in a wildflower seeding in a public park. A PEC representative also was present at the proclamation and the seeding. We are continuing to work with the Native Plant Society to get advice on planting a native gardens which could also supply monarch habitat.

## Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

In progress for 2024.

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

We will be meeting with HOA's this winter to see what they are willing to do toward the Monarch Pledge.

## 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.**

20231023_155655 (4).jpg

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

Monarch_FB_9.26.23.png

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

Monarch_FB_10.9.23.png

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

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We have made social media postings and took part in one media interview related to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. In October we hosted a free online Teams meeting for Leander residents featuring a speaker from Monarch Watch who gave an hour-long briefing about the Monarch.

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

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

City Parks Department

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

in progress

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

June 2024

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

thumbnail_IMG_0012.jpg

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

thumbnail_IMG_0016.jpg

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

The Public Works Department is developing a map of areas where we can delay mowing until late June to allow for monarch reproduction during the spring migration. This fall we have begun working with Code Enforcement to evaluate opportunities to make room for

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wildscaping residential properties so we can encourage more native plantings. This can be problematic because efforts to do this sometimes clash with city code. We are also discussing protection and creation of monarch habitat with our parks staff.

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

Meetings with the street superintendent, parks managers, and code. In once case myself and the code enforcement chief met online with a resident who wishes to promote wildscaping in Leander.

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