City of Leander

Leander, TX

Mayor Christine DeLisile

Pledge Summary

Leander is a growing city of about 100,000 residents on the edge of the Texas Hill Country. Given our location in the eastern monarch migration route, we are in a great place to help support the butterfly. Our participation enhances efforts to engage with residents in our work in water conservation and city beautification through promotion of drought tolerant landscaping with native Texas Plants. Many of these plants are also useful to monarchs and other pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Systems Change

- 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.).

600

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.)

0

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.

0.13

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.

We have been wanting to create a substantial drought-tolerant demonstration garden for some time, and we are developing a solid plant to build one at our new senior center, and also coming up with a maintenance plan. We intend to have this certified as a Monarch Way Station.

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

Our program is available to all communities, regardless of ethnicity, through our online presentations and public events.

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

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The city 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?

The Monarch Watch and National Wildlife Foundation websites. We often use them as guides for information about the monarch and shore those websites with our public whenever possible.

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

Public interest in the monarch pledge is quite high. We did a social media post about building a butterfly puddling station that was liked and loved and commented on by a huge number of people. Staff involvement is also growing. Our engineering staff and parks staff are now working on a drought-tolerant plant demonstration at our new senior center now under construction. We plant to have the garden built to fulfill criteria to be marked as a monarch way station.

Selected Action Items

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.

We conducted a recent online meeting for HOA's to talk about the Monarch Pledge and the need to do mowing delays.

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

The HOA managers were interested but no solid commitments, but seemed interested in the program. We'll continue to work on this.

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.

seeds.jpg

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

75 packets of seed were given away in a two-week period at the Leander Activities Center. The packets were in a display at the reception desk at the front during work hours. Our public library also maintains a seed bank operated by a community gardening group called the Hill Country Bloomers.

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

75

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

City parks department

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

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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).

100

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

Austin Butterfly Forum, Leander residents

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

We publicized citizen science efforts with a facebook post related to Monarch Watch in information about Monarch tagging and the Journey North App.

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

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

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Dark Skies.docx

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

City of Leander Development Services

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.

July 21, 2016

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.

Butterfly meeting 2.jpg

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

Social media and the city's online newsletter, Leander Connect were used to spread information about the Monarch Pledge, as well as public presentations by city conservation staff and public speakers we hosted from the Monarch Watch (via Teams) and the Austin Butterfly Forum and the Native Plant Society of Texas, Williamson County Chapter (in-person presentation at the Leander Activities Center).

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.

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

Public works, Parks and Engineering Departments.

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

Public Works is conducting a mowing delay along 2.5 miles of Ronald Reagan Boulevard. Engineering and Parks are working with the Water Conservation Department to develop a drought-tolerant plant demonstration garden slated for construction in late February or March. On the mowing delay, we plan to install permanent road signs stating that the area is under a mowing halt from March to June.

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.

Master Gardeners, Native Plant Society of Texas, Austin Butterfly Forum, Hill Country Bloomers.

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

The Austin Butterfly forum collaborated with us in bringing an expert to speak to our residents at the Leander Activities Center in October. We had about 30 people attend. The Hill Country Bloomers, Native Plant Society and Master Gardeners are in discussions with us about how they can support and use our Drought-Tolerant Plant Demonstration Garden. The Native Plant society this month gave a talk, as well, about types of plants people can use here, and the the discussion included support of pollinators and other wildlife.

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 21, 2004

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch pledge 2024.docx

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