# City of Leander

Leander, TX

Mayor Christine DeLisile

## Pledge Summary

Leander is a fast-growing city of 100,000 residents on the edge of the Texas Hill Country. We strive to promote attractive surroundings for our residents and promote environmental awareness. This includes the use of landscapes and plants that fit our region, and water conservation, which is an important to us. The Mayor's Monarch pledge is a great program that complements our efforts because it provides an additional way to communicate with residents about native plants and water at the same time. By promoting the support of the monarch and other pollinators for our plants, we also improve the community's appearance.

## Action Items Committed for 2025

### 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.
- 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.

## Past Pledge Archive

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| 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.).**

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.)**

25

**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.**

0.0

**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.**

While we have not added any habitat on city land, we maintain signed mowing delay areas on about nine miles of roadway on Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard, Lakeline Boulevard, and North Bagdad Road.

**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 accessible to anyone through free public events and social media.

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

This was our third year. We have found it to be popular with our residents and it helps us in water conservation efforts because it gives us a new way talk about converting landscapes to Texas native plants by relating them to pollinators such as the monarch butterfly.

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**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?**

Monarch Watch national Wildlife Federations websites have been useful. We have printed out materials from these websites for some of our events where we have discussed the monarch pledge. Short video presentations about different topics related to the monarch and which could be accessed through an online link would be great for our residents, as well as the general public you serve.

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

Our signed mowing delay areas have attracted some interest from the public and spurred some to take action. One apartment complex for instance, invited me to visit with their staff and residents to talk about the Monarch Pledge. They are starting to work on a monarch garden. We have also built a relationship with Austin Butterfly Forum, a non-profit group that promotes education and activities related to the butterflies. We had a speaker from their group appear at our Activities Center in May, and I recently spoke at one of their organizational meetings about Leander's work with the Monarch Pledge.

## 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:**

April 17, 2025

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

2025-04-17 Monarch Butterfly (003).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.)

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

Journey north post.jpg

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

Austin Butterfly Forum Meeting.jpg

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

We maintain a presence for Monarch Pledge items on facebook and Next Door.

## 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.**

We maintain mowing delay areas in our city, and I am in discussions with Streets Superintendent about expanding them. There is also interest from a multiple groups of citizens in doing native plant preservation activities along our Mason Creek Trail and other areas in Leander.

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

Right now we are communicating by email and there has been a brief meeting with myself and the City Manager with another organization which wants to building native plant areas on private property. We hope to build on these in 2025.

## 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.**

traffic island garden plan.pdf

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

garden plan II.pdf

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

This year we met multiple times with a group formed from our local Master Gardeners, the Williamson County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and a volunteer connected to out County Extension agent on our proposed Native Plant Demonstration Garden. This has been planned for our new senior citizens center now under construction. The project has repeatedly been delayed because of construction delays stemming from changes that had to be made to the building.

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

We had four one-one-one meetings and significant email and telephone contact with members of these organizations.

## 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.**

testgardenplat.pdf

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

We have had some discussions with the Marbella neighborhood about drought tolerant planting in an area that could become a monarch way station. It is on private property, but we are considering how we can support the project with information or other resources if it happens. This discussion has involved myself, City Manager Todd Parten, and City Councilman Mike Herrera. I have a attached a plan of this possible site.

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

So far discussions are informal and just getting started. We will see where things go from here.

## 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 receipt -- Bill Teeter.pdf

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

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We gave away 100 packets of native wildflower seed from a display at the Leander Activities Center and also at an appearance at the Sara Apartment complex, where they are starting to put together a butterfly garden.

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

15

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

I arranged the seed giveaway at the Leander Activity Center with Onie Eguzzo, our activities center director, and Vanessa Correa, leasing manager at the Sara Apartments in Leander.

## 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.**

Journey north post.jpg

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

ABF meeting.pdf

**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).**

110

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

Austin Butterfly Forum, Journeynorth.org

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

We hosted a talk at our activities center by Mike Quinn, an entomologist associated with the Austin Butterfly Forum. We also posted information on the city's social media about journeynorth.org to let people know they could take part in reporting Monarch sightings.

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## 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)**

We are working on development of a native plant demonstration garden mentioned earlier in this report at the new Senior Center now finishing construction next door to our maintenance yard at 607 Municipal Drive.

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

Master Gardeners, Williamson County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Bloomers.

**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.**

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