City of Hot Springs

Hot Springs, AR

Mayor Pat McCabe

Pledge Summary

Hot Springs is the most popular tourist destination in the state of Arkansas with nearly 7 million annual visitors. It is located just southwest of the state capital of Arkansas with a population of more than 38,000 residents. As a part of the Natural State, the city of Hot Springs is nestled alongside Hot Springs National Park, also known as the first U.S. National Reservation, as well as the Ouachita National Forest and two state parks. It is surrounded by three man-made lakes, one of which is the largest lake in the state and also consistently ranked one of the cleanest lakes in the nation. In addition to the state/federal attractions, the City of Hot Springs boasts of having 22 parks within and surrounding the city limits, along with the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail. Between all these entities, Hot Springs has more than 100 miles of hiking/walking trails. In an effort to bring awareness to pollinators, the City of Hot Springs partners with community groups such as the Master Gardeners and Arkansas Master Naturalists, Diamond Lakes Division (DLAMN) to host a variety of presentations and educational events at pollinator areas on city-owned parks and trails. This includes the popular Monarch Butterfly releases held at the Monarch Butterfly Garden on the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, which was created with the help of DLAMN. By signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe has committed to continue to save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators and looks forward to engaging residents in pollinator education and building more pollinator habitats throughout the city.

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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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 Pat McCabe	2026	3/9/2026	
Mayor Pat McCabe	2025	1/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Pat McCabe	2024	3/20/2024	Signatories
Mayor Pat McCabe	2023	3/31/2023	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.)

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Approximately 250 youth and 250 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.

.5

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.

The City of Hot Springs is excited to share that we have four pollinator gardens in different city parks (Entergy Park and David F. Watkins Park) and along paved greenway spaces (Hot Springs Farmer's Market and the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail). In addition, there are native plants within rain gardens along numerous city-maintained roads and several vitex plants throughout City property. The City of Hot Springs also has a Landscaping Code that is used to promulgate the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Hot Springs National Park through the establishment of reasonable standards for the preservation, planting, and care of natural vegetation and introduced landscaping.

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

The City of Hot Springs is creating rain gardens and pollinator gardens within low-income areas and within the minority districts. By doing this, the areas are used as free educational demonstrations, and volunteer opportunities, drawing tourists to the areas, and providing avenues for exercise.

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

The City of Hot Springs has already been participating in efforts to protect pollinators over the past ten years. We always want to increase our planting of pollinator-native plants along trailsides, roadways and other public areas.

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 City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department actively uses the extensive knowledge of the individuals through the Master Gardeners, Diamond Lake Arkansas Master Naturalists (DLAMN) and the University of Arkansas Agriculture Division. The City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Director states that he would like to see more community involvement, including different community organizations through public schools, the public library and other volunteer groups.

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

Over the last year, the City's main focus has been adding public rights-of-way, medians, and rain gardens. The City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department has plans, for some of our City Parks, to plant native wildflower fields in the open greenspaces within specific City parks. In 2024, the Parks and Trails Department is hoping to have native wildlife fields in at least two of the City parks. Also, towards the beginning of 2024, the Parks and Trails Department plans to expand the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail Monarch Butterfly Garden.

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:

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

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.)

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

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.

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

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this

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process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

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

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

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).

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).

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

What species were collected or propagated?

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

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

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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

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community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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)

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)

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

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

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).

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

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 (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.

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

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

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).

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

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

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)

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

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?

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.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes 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.

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DLMAN Monarch Mania.png

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

80

What was the date of your festival?

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023

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

The Diamond Lake Arkansas Master Naturalists

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

The City of Hot Springs Department of Parks and Trails and the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists (DLAMN) presented a Monarch Butterfly Mania. Through combined efforts, a guided walk along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trial, a Monarch butterfly program and butterfly release occurred on Saturday, October 7. The public was invited to join the activities presented and led by DLAMN Certified Master Naturalists. Participants gathered before the 9:30 departure for the Guided Walk along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail. The walk began where the Greenway Trail crosses Orange Street near the Farmers Market. The distance to the Butterfly Garden is 0.75 miles. The total distance of the round-trip walk was 1.5 miles along a smooth, paved surface. Along the way, attendees will be introduced to the rich plant diversity of one of Hot Springs's many parks. A program on the Butterfly Garden, Pollinators, and the Release of Monarch Butterflies was given by Certified Master Naturalists Karen Hicks and Loretta West at the Butterfly Garden located at the junction of the Greenway Trail and Runyon St. Those not wanting to make the walk were able to drive to the Butterfly Garden. Parking is available at the intersection of Valley and Runyan streets. The program started at approximately 10:00 a.m. Hicks and West explained that Monarch Butterflies are pollinators, just like bees, wasps, flies and birds. They also explained that more than 35% of the foods we eat depend on pollinators, as do livestock. The program included how the Monarch Butterfly is our only North American butterfly that migrates each fall and spring; a journey of 1200 to 2600 miles. The butterflies released began their fall journey to Mexico where they will overwinter in the Trans Volcanic Mountains. Each spring the migratory adults return to North America from their overwintering grounds. The program will explain the different generations of Monarchs and their life spans. More than 100 Generation 4 Monarch butterflies were released at the event.

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

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

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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)

The City of Hot Springs' main demonstration pollinator garden is located alongside the Hot Springs Creek and Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, near the corner of Valley and Runyon streets. It's accessible by a paved path within our minority district and borders the historic district of Hot Springs. This space is on the edge of an open field and wooded area adjacent to a flowing creek.

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

The Garland County Master Gardeners, The Diamond Lake Arkansas Master Naturalists, The Garland County Conservation District and Tri-Lakes Iron Works.

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

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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.

.25

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.

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Rotary volunteers at Hollywood Park trailhead - IMG_5381.jpg

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

The City of Hot Springs partners with five (5) community organizations and groups: The Garland County Master Gardeners, the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Garland County Conservation District, Downtown Hot Springs Rotary Club and Tri-Lakes Ornamental Iron Works and artist Laura Bluewaters.

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

The Garland County Master Gardeners maintain a Pollinator Garden at Entergy Park, 530 Lakepark Drive and a Pollinator and Rock Garden at the Hot Springs Farmer's Market, 121 Orange Street, a Xeriscape Garden at a local park and a small Sculpture Garden section of the Hot Springs Greenway Trail. In addition, twice a month, the Master Gardeners help the Parks and Trails Department at its greenhouses. As well as, every Spring, Master Gardener volunteers help create over 130 hanging flower beds to be placed in Downtown Hot Springs along the roadways. DLAMN maintains a Monarch Butterfly Garden along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail. The City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department partners with DLAMN to host annual Monarch Butterfly releases and educational experiences at the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail Butterfly Garden. In addition, representatives from DLAMN and several other organizations participated in the City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department's Arbor Day event, hosted on April 21, 2023, at Entergy Park. This annual event is geared toward local students in the fifth grade. This year, there were approximately 250 students in attendance. The DLAMN representatives had one of the eight learning stations that the students would visit. The DLAMN station showcased their group and what they do, including displaying a butterfly's lifecycle, and migration patterns and teaching the students about the importance of pollinators. The Garland County Conservation District (GCCD) received a grant through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Division to create pollinator gardens and wildlife habitats. Through this grant, GCCD added native plants to a flowerbed at Entergy Park to create a pollinator garden and supplied native plants to the pollinator garden at the Hot Springs Farmer's Market. The Downtown Hot Springs Rotary Club participates in an

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annual planting of flowerbeds at one of our trailheads along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail. Tri-Lakes Iron Works and artist Laura Bluewaters created custom metal monarch butterflies to be placed within the Entergy Park Pollinator Garden and in the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Monarch Butterfly Garden. These wrought iron statues weigh approximately 100 pounds and are 7 feet wide and rest upon a 12 to 15-foot stand. In addition to the metal butterflies, Tri-Lakes also donated a custom Monarch Bench at the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Monarch Butterfly Garden.

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