# 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 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.
- 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

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

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## 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.)**

200

**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.**

0.5

**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.**

In 2024, the City of Hot Springs created additional monarch habitats within several right-of-way and various City parks.

**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' main pollinator areas are primarily located in residential areas of the City's low-income neighborhoods within the minority and historic districts. These areas are all accessible by foot for these residents, providing outdoor opportunities, such as exercise, volunteering, etc…, and areas to take pride in. A handful of these areas include pollinator gardens that can be (and are) used for educational demonstrations, events, and tourist attractions.

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

The City of Hot Springs is genuinely interested in restoring monarch habitats and providing wildflower beautification throughout our city by planting pollinator-native plants along trail sides, roadways, downtown Hot Springs, 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 would like to see more community involvement, including through various community organizations.

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

We are selecting more pollinator-friendly flower varieties in our existing plantings. We are also expanding our Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail that will have pollinator areas around the new trailhead area. In addition, in late 2025, the first planned phase of a new greenway trail (Stokes Creek Trail) will begin and there are plans to incorporate pollinator planting areas along the trail and/or at the trailhead.

## Selected Action Items

### 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.**

brian presenting at mania.jpg

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

butterfly nursery.jpg

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

butterfly photo opp.jpg

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

CHS - Website Calendar Event.png

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

CHS Social Media post.png

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

DLAMN - Website Calendar Event.png

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

DLAMN Social Media Post.png

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

looking at butterflies.jpg

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

Monarch Mania (1).png

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

Press Release.png

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

Social Media event.png

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

tagged butterfly.jpg

**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**

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**only), e.g. 500)**

40

**What was the date of your festival?**

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024

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

The Diamond Lake Arkansas Master Naturalists (DLAMN)

**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 Parks and Trails Department and the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists held a public Monarch Mania Festival on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, at the Monarch Butterfly Garden, at the corner of Valley and Runyon streets. This one-hour event was a great success with more than 40 people, of all ages, in attendance. The Monarch Butterfly Garden is located alongside the Valley Street Creekwalk section of the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail (HSCGT), located within the City's minority district. This section of the HSCGT is a .5-mile-long path easily accessible by foot or self-propelled wheel. For those who need a shorter distance to the garden, there are two parking areas within the immediate vicinity, and permanent seating areas along the way to the garden. During the event, participants could see the tagging of monarch butterflies, learn about the monarch and fellow pollinators at various information booths, and enjoy some family-friendly activities. Toward the end of the event, DLAMN Certified Master Naturalists provided a "Monarch Butterfly Garden and its Pollinators" presentation. A handful of lucky eventgoers witnessed a few monarch butterflies eclose from their chrysalis in the display nursery. In addition, at the event's grand finale, everyone took delight in watching a brood of fourth-generation monarch butterflies get released and start their migratory journey to Mexico. The event was promoted through the City's and DLAMN's social media channels, a press release, a PGA TV channel, and the City's and DLAMN's website calendars.

## 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.**

IMG_5817.png

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

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IMG_5883.png

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

IMG_5885.png

**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 helps maintain and plant several pollinator-friendly demonstration gardens throughout the city. One of these gardens is found at Entergy Park, located at 140 Entergy Park Lane. This demonstration garden, the North Loop Garden, is one of many maintained by the Garland County Master Gardeners. This award-winning park is one of the most visited city parks in Hot Springs and has received the Reader's Choice Award for being the Best Park in Hot Springs on several occasions. The pollinator garden sits peacefully in the greenspace of a parking lot, on the north side, of the park which is surrounded by wooded areas, bodies of water, and an open field.

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

Entergy Park's pollinator garden is maintained with the help of the Garland County Master Gardeners and the Garland County Conservation District.

**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.**

.168

## 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.**

IMG_5000 - Arbor Day at Entergy Park.JPG

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

KAB 4.13.24 (7) - Entergy Park Clean Up.JPG

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

Saturdays at the Garden.png

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

Coloring sheet.jpg

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

butterfly 1.jpg

**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_1107.JPEG

**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_7889.JPG

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

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The City of Hot Springs partners with four (4) main community organizations and groups: The Garland County Master Gardeners, the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Garland County Conservation District, and the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club.

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

The Garland County Master Gardeners (MG) maintain a pollinator garden at Entergy Park, 530 Lakepark Drive, a pollinator and rock garden at the Hot Springs Farmer's Market, 121 Orange Street, a xeriscape garden within the Friendship Trail section of the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, and a small garden in the Sculpture Garden of the Transportation Plaza Trail section of the Hot Springs Greenway Trail. In addition, at least once a month, the MG volunteers help out at the Parks and Trails Department's greenhouses, and, every Spring, MG volunteers help create over 130 hanging flower beds to be placed in Downtown Hot Springs along the main roadway. The Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists (DLAMN) maintains a Monarch Butterfly Garden along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, within the Valley Street Creekwalk Trail section. 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 26, 2024, at Entergy Park. This annual event is geared toward local fifth-grade students. This year, approximately 250 students were in attendance. The DLAMN representatives had one of the eight learning stations that the students visited. The DLAMN station showcased their group and what they do, including facts about our various local insect wildlife and natural surroundings. The Garland County Conservation District (GCCD) held "Pollinator Saturdays" during the summer Hot Springs Farmer's Market season on various Saturdays at the Hot Springs Farmer's Market pavilion. These events provided crafts and activities for children, informational pamphlets, and native seed packets for those interested. In addition, GCCD representatives helped the MG work in the City's various public pollinator gardens throughout the year. The Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club (HSNPRC), in partnership with the Hot Springs Parks and Trails landscape crew, participates in an annual planting at the HSNPRC's adopted flowerbed, located in the median of the intersection of Central and Whittington avenues.

## 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:**

11/14/2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

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Mayor's Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2024.png

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

Mayor Pat McCabe presents to DLAMN.JPG

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