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 and the future home of the Stokes 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. 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 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.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

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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.)

250

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 2025, 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.

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

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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 lean on the extensive knowledge of 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 have just completed the last expansion of our Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail and have several landscaping areas throughout the Jean White Wallace Wetlands Trailhead, and will be adding more in the future around the Trailhead's Kayak Launching Area. The first planned phase of the Stokes Creek Greenway Trail is under construction. Once the phase is completed, the Parks Department will incorporate pollinator planting areas along the route and/or at the trailhead. This 2,000-foot phase will run through a wooded area clinging to Stokes Creek and is within a residential area, near a popular park.

Selected Action Items

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.

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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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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 along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, near Hollywood Park. The Greenway Xeriscape Garden is one of many maintained by the Garland County Master Gardeners. This demonstration garden sits peacefully in an open greenspace, surrounded by a paved multi-use path, wooded areas, and the Hot Springs Creek.

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

The Greenway Xeriscape Garden is maintained with the help of the Garland County Master Gardeners.

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.

0.168

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

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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)

100

What was the date of your festival?

Saturday, October 18, 2025

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

the Diamond Lakes 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).

On Saturday, October 18, the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, in partnership with the City of Hot Springs Parks and Trails Department, hosted its annual Monarch Mania event at the Butterfly Garden along the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail. This garden is mostly in a residential area, within the City's minority district, and in a low-income historical neighborhood. It is accessible by foot, active transportation, and/or mobility devices. This free one-hour event was packed with pollinator enthusiasts of all ages learning about the monarch's life cycle, tagging process, migration patterns, preferred food choices, and habitats.

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:

Saturday, October 18, 2025

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

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Mayor’s Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation-Monarch Butterfly.docx

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

HSNPRC Planting 4.jpg

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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.

This year, the City of Hot Springs partners with five (5) main community organizations and groups, as well as one (1) individual: The Garland County Master Gardeners, the Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Garland County Conservation District, the Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club, Covenant Recovery, and local artist Julie Williams.

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 120 hanging flower beds, full of madness rose petunias, 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 its annual Monarch Mania event 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 25, 2025, at Entergy Park. This annual event is geared toward local fifth-grade students. This year, more than 200 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) helped the MG work in the City's various public pollinator gardens throughout the year. GCCD also participated in the City's annual Creek Hopping event, which provided opportunities for kids to interact with and witness the wildlife and various pollinators that thrive on the creek and its resources. GCCD representatives also participated in the City's various litter pickup events, which help reduce man-made hazards and protect natural habitats. 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. Volunteers through Covenant Recovery helped the City's Stormwater and Parks and Trails staff plant purple fountain grass, Lantana, Vitex, variegated yucca, dwarf yaupon holly, phlox, and Lambs' ear within the rain gardens along Whittington Avenue. Local artist Julie Williams donated her time and supplies to hand-paint mile markers for the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, one of which is Monarch Butterfly-themed to represent the area it is installed in.

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