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 2026

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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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.)

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.

3

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.

Entergy Park, 140 Entergy Park Lane

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. As a town that thrives off of its surrounding environmental resources, it is important to protect healthy ecosystem contributors, support biodiversity, and engage the community to promote good stewardship.

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 Recreation Department actively leans 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 recently completed our first phase of our second greenway (the Stokes Creek Greenway Trail) that will eventually have several landscaping areas throughout it that will incorporate pollinator planting areas along the route and/or at the trailhead - it runs alongside Stokes Creek, within a wooded residential area, near a popular park. • We recently became a recipient of the 2026 ARDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) $550,000 Federal grant award for the Hot Springs Hollywood Railroad Spur Trail. This TAP grant provides funding for projects focusing on pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. This will allow the City of Hot Springs to create a trail branching off the Hot Springs Creek Greenway Trail, near a local park, through nearby neighborhoods, and eventually connecting to the Stokes Creek Greenway Trail. Construction will start in 2027. Once completed, this multi-year project will provide numerous landscaping areas to be created for pollinator planting along the routes and at the trailheads.

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:

Saturday, September 19, 2026

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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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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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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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5-8-26 - HSNP Rotary at Central-Whittington Intersection.jpg

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

KAB fall 2026 DLAMN group photo.jpg

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

Garland County Master Gardeners Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists Garland County Conservation District Hot Springs National Park Rotary Club Friends of the Parks

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 Recreation 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 Recreation 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, DLAMN hosted a Keep Arkansas Beautiful Clean Up event at Jean White Wallace Wetlands Trailhead, where more than 20 volunteers helped clear out invasive plant species and collect litter along the Hot

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Springs Creek. • 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 and invasive plant removal 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 Recreation 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. • In May 2024, Hot Springs took on an EF-2 tornado that destroyed several acres of Entergy Park. In April 2026, restoration efforts finally began as [what would have been] wooded area at the park received dispersed native forb and grass seed distributed by the hand of seven volunteers (from Garland County Master Gardeners, Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, and Garland Conservation District) and a staff member across roughly three acres. The native forb and grass seed pollinator mix used was designed for the Ouachita and Blackland Prairie Region of Arkansas and ordered through Pheasants Forever and meets and exceeds the NRCS 327 & 420 standards for Wildlife, Pollinator, and Monarch habitat seedings for CRP, EQIP, CSP, and most other conservation programs. The highly diverse, 61-species pollinator mixture included 56 forb species (most all pollinator-friendly). • Following the 2024 tornado, Friends of the Parks secured a Two for the Trails Conservation Grant through Athletic Brewing Company that allowed the Friends of the Parks to hire a contractor, with assistance from the Arkansas Department of Corrections, to ultimately clear the debris and move the larger pieces into a ravine to provide, and continues to do so, wildlife habitat and help reduce erosion and runoff throughout the area affected at Entergy Park.

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.

Entergy Park Pic - 2026, 4-9, Sign 3.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.

Arkansas Ouachita and Blackland Prairie mix landowner.pdf

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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)

This year, we are highlighting the rejuvenation of the wooded area at Entergy Park, which was destroyed during the 2024 tornado. It is within the park at 140 Entergy Park Lane – coordinates are near 34.446873,-93.029422 Annually, this park and its surrounding area is used by monarch butterflies to go through metamorphosis

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

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Friends of the Parks, Garland County Master Gardeners, Diamond Lakes Master Naturalists, and 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.

3

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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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)

125

What was the date of your festival?

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Saturday, September 19, 2026

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

The Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, in partnership with the City of Hot Springs Parks and Recreation Department

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 Diamond Lakes Arkansas Master Naturalists, in partnership with the City of Hot Springs Parks and Recreation Department, hosted the 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.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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 garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

7

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

o Monarch Waystation Program (Monarchwatch.org), located at Entergy Park Pollinator Garden, 140 Entergy Park Lane, and Xeriscape Garden near Hollywood Park, 411 Hollywood Avenue: These signs are an indicator that these locations are registered monarch habitats that provide necessary resources for monarchs to produce successive generations and sustain their migration. The signs below were created in-house and physically made by a local sign company, or donated by a community partner: o What is a Pollinator Garden and its purpose, located at the Pollinator Garden near Hot Springs Farmers Market, 121 Orange Street, and the Entergy Park Pollinator Garden, 140 Entergy Park Lane: These signs talk about the importance of pollinators and the flowering, pollen-filled plants that attract them. In addition, there is a “How to Create a Pollinator Garden” section that includes 7 tips: use pollinator-friendly plants, choose a mixture of plants, reduce or eliminate pesticides, accept some plant damage, provide clean water, leave dead tree trunks, and support land conservation. o Monarch Butterfly Garden: Nature’s Great Migratory Wonder, located near the Velocity Park Playground at the DLAMN Pollinator Garden near 217 Runyon Street: This sign talks about the migration pattern, life

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stages, and diet of a monarch. In addition, it includes a ‘Did You Know?’ facts section that mentions the weight of a fully grown monarch caterpillar, lifespan, migration time to Mexico, and reasons for population decline. o What is a Xeriscape and its purpose, located at the Xeriscape Garden near Hollywood Park, 411 Hollywood Avenue: This sign talks about what a xeriscape is, how it was developed, plant selections and plant placement, the importance of mulch, and the maintenance level. o Life in the Wetlands, located at Jean White Wallace Wetlands Trailhead, 570 Television Hill Road (near bridge leading to Kayak Launch): This sign talks about what wetlands are and mentions that this area is a protected wetland, which is home to several creatures, including monarchs, as well as the variety of flora and fauna that thrive in the wetland environments. This sign also reminds visitors not to disturb or interact with the wildlife. In addition to the permanent educational signs, the gardens are filled with various small signs letting viewers know the specific types of plants that are currently growing within the gardens.

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