

# City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

Mayor Karen Bass

## Pledge Summary

Despite its reputation as a sprawling metropolis, the City of Los Angeles is located within one of 36 globally recognized biodiversity hotspots. Los Angeles is a biodiversity jewel, teeming with rare and iconic species, including the monarch butterfly. By signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, Mayor Bass has committed to creating habitat for the monarch butterfly and other pollinator species throughout the City. The City of Los Angeles is excited to advance the initiatives outlined in this pledge by planting native milkweed and other pollinator-friendly nectar plants in medians, to train landscape staff to use pollinator-friendly practices, and to initiate community science efforts that help monitor monarch health.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### Communications and Convening

- 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

### Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Karen Bass	2025	3/26/2025	Signatories

Mayor Karen Bass	2024	3/18/2024	Signatories
Mayor Karen Bass	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 (e.g., 50).**

1400

**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." (Only allow numerical values.)**

450 youth; 950 adult

**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).**

0

**Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.**

Habitat is being actively restored and preserved at various city facilities and throughout the public right of way (parkway landscaping and tree planting).

**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 Los Angeles has recently committed to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge (Spring 2023), and as such, has not had an opportunity to actively leverage the program to engage marginalized communities.

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

As a new 'pledgee' the City of Los Angeles continues to work internally to align our commitments to 1) Create equitable access to nature, and 2) Uniformly engage the community, through continued conversations between City departments.

**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?**

As a new 'pledgee' the City of Los Angeles continues to work internally to align our commitments to 1) Create equitable access to nature, and 2) Uniformly engage the community, through continued conversations between city departments.

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

We are committed to achieving and expanding upon our goals in an effort to restore, expand, and provide an enhanced environment for monarch butterflies to not only live, but thrive.

## **Selected Action Items**

### **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.**

The City of Los Angeles engages with dozens of community organizations on biodiversity, tree planting, and pollinator issues. In particular, the City has engaged with the Natural History Museum of LA County, Friends of Griffith Park, LA Parks Foundation, City Plants, LA Conservation Corps, LA Beautification, TreePeople, the Theodore Payne Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, Sky Valley Volunteers, Conservation Concierges, and the Resources Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

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

The City is working with outside groups to pilot a more restorative approach by removing invasive plants and plant mow-able and carbon sequestering natives at various city facilities. Restoring and rehabilitating land by solely planting native plants including nectaring species that support pollinators such as monarchs at various facilities. Additionally, efforts to create a conservation, restoration, and urban rewilding assessment will yield priority areas that can be used to plant milkweeds and native nectar plants. Future plans and projects include: 1) Habitat restoration and native plant landscaping at Franklin Canyon Orange Grove; 2) Remove invasive weeds and foster native plant recruitment at Chatsworth Nature Preserve; 3) Restore seven acres of land at Headworks Restoration Park by solely planting native plants including nectaring species that support pollinators such as monarchs; 4) Native plant installation at David M. Gonzales Recreation Center, Whitsett Fields Park North, and Valley Village Park by planting native nectaring plants that support pollinators.

## **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)**

There are various locations where milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants are being planted. The City is currently implementing its 'Creating Urban Habitat and Biodiversity through Median Greening' (Median Greening Project), which was awarded \$5 million in funding through the first cycle of Caltrans' Clean California Program. The Median Greening Project will enhance turf medians in the public right-of-way (PROW) in six median locations throughout the City of Los Angeles. The 6 locations are: Alameda Triangle (Alameda St and Main St) Sherman Way Medians (Van Nuys Blvd to Sepulveda Blvd) Avalon Medians (E Century Blvd to 104th St) Olive/Hill Triangle (Hill Street and S 23rd St) Leimert Medians (Sutro Ave to W 43rd St) East E Medians (Sanford Ave to Avalon Blvd) and Harry Bridges Blvd (King Ave to Lagoon Ave) Additionally, the City is implementing the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd: Equity & Connectivity through Greening project, which also was awarded \$5 million in during Caltrans' first cycle of the Clean California Local Grant program to implement native planting in nearly 35,700 square feet of medians in the public right-of-way along MLK Blvd. (from Hill St. to Central Ave). In addition, internal discussions are occurring to establish routine "Biodiversity Meetings" to prioritize the use of native plants in the public right-of-way.

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

2000

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

In total, the Median Greening and Martin Luther King Jr. projects will convert 97,200 square feet of turf in public right-of-way medians into native planting. Currently, the City does not have the total acreage specific for milkweed planting.

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

Maintenance schedules vary depending on City department but includes planting native plants, including nectaring species, that support pollinators such as monarch butterflies.

**Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).**

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

The City of LA worked with a broad coalition of biodiversity stakeholders to recertify the City of Los Angeles as a Community Wildlife Habitat with NWF. The City has a 300+ person

biodiversity stakeholder mailing list that is used to get the word out about biodiversity initiatives, like certifying homes, schools, and businesses via NWF.

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

The City was recertified through the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat in 2023. Recertification was possible due to a variety of outreach and engagement activities. City staff gave public presentations, created new infographics and outreach materials, and updated the City's official biodiversity webpage ([lacitysan.org/biodiversity](http://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)) in order to engage Angelenos in creating and maintaining wildlife habitat across the City.

**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.**

[LAPL Flyer 2023 LA BioBlitz Challenge.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 (e.g., 150).**

1398

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

Various departments within the City of Los Angeles (LA Sanitation & Environment, the Department of Recreation & Parks, Streets LA, and LA Public Library) partnered with the Natural History Museum of LA County to promote the 2023 LA Bioblitz Challenge. Schools and community groups across the City participated in the annual challenge.

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

The 2023 LA BioBlitz Challenge was held during the month of October 2023 where the public was encouraged to seek out native animals in plants in order for scientists and community leaders to better understand where different species of plants and animals live across the city. See attached 2023 LA BioBlitz Challenge Flyer.

**Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.**

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

The City of Los Angeles partners with various organizations and outside agencies to plant native plants including nectaring species that support pollinators such as monarchs. Specifically, the City partnered with the Theodore Payne Foundation to host a 'Scaling Native Plants Strategy Session' to identify and overcome barriers to normalizing the use of native plant landscaping across the City, particularly at City-owned properties. This meeting led to a collaboration that will continue the effort to use native plants and pollinator-friendly milkweeds and nectar plants. Additionally, several City staff underwent the California Native Plant Landscaper Certification training, conducted by the Theodore Payne Foundation, which provides the framework for staff to appropriately allocate, design, and maintain native plants that will flourish in the City's medians and parkways.

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

In progress

**If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.**

The City of LA is excited about the prospect of revamping practices and policies to promote the creation of pollinator habitat, particularly at City properties. A coalition of City departments and partner groups has been established to work strategically on this effort. Additionally, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has five projects, listed below, that are actively enhancing pollinator habitat on City lands. 1) Barren Ridge Renewable Transmission Project (underway): 223 acres of Angeles National Forest land are actively being restored with solely native plants including nectaring species that support pollinators such as monarchs. 2) PP1 & PP2 Transmission Line Conversion Project (underway): 63 acres will be restored using solely native plants including nectaring plants that support pollinators such as monarchs. 3) Chatsworth Reservoir Maintenance (future): The City will be removing invasive weeds and fostering native plant recruitment at the detention basins located at the Chatsworth Reservoir facility. 4) Headworks Restoration Park (future): Approximately 7 acres of this future project will be restored with solely native plants, including nectaring species that support pollinators such as monarchs. 5) Stormwater Capture Parks Program (future): Three parks (David M. Gonzales Recreation Center, Whitsett Fields Park North, and Valley Village Park) will receive native plant installation as part of the stormwater capture improvements program. Native nectaring plants that support pollinators will be included.