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 2024

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

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

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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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

1783

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.)

502

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.

0.53

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.

LADWP launched the new pollinator garden (0.25 acres) located at the Hollywood Reservoir. This is a popular and heavily trafficked open space for hiking and other outdoor activities. The Hollywood Reservoir Pollinator Garden was officially opened on June 1, 2024. LADWP Central District yard - Temple Yard installed 0.28 acres of garden along the sidewalk of Temple Street. Additionally, StreetsLA has converted approximately 33,500 SF of a total 65,000 SF of landscaped rights-of-way medians to native landscaping, which will include milkweed planting (via hydroseeding). These improvements were funded through Caltrans' Clean California grant (Cycle 1).

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

We are utilizing the activities we are participating in as part of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in various outreach and engagement efforts, which are frequently targeted towards low-income and environmentally disadvantaged areas. As part of our community science initiatives, schools, parks, and libraries have been engaged in these neighborhoods in order to increase the distribution of observations and engage these communities with the importance of biodiversity. Furthermore, we are using these activities to prepare for future

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community engagement efforts with marginalized communities. For example, we are preparing for community engagement as part of the City's efforts to update the Open Space Element of the General Plan, which will seek to understand community priorities surrounding biodiversity and education on the importance of biodiversity in these areas. Additionally, we are working with various LADWP groups to identify impacts of rebates, programs, and incentives (i.e. City Plants) in marginalized communities and exploring how to layer biodiversity/Mayor's Monarch pledge data.

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

We are excited to continue with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. This is the City's second year participating with the pledge, and continuing the work that we started last year is crucial for the biodiversity work that we do. Furthermore, we are looking to expand our efforts, which aligns well with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. We understand the severity of biodiversity loss. Planting native plants and trees provide many co-benefits including the reduction of the heat island effects and helping the region respond to extreme heat due to climate change. Furthermore, LADWP has recently adopted a resolution: Biodiversity, Access to Nature, and Nature-Based Solutions Motion, confirming our commitment and alignment to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

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?

We have found that collaboration between City departments and with local stakeholders and experts has been absolutely crucial in letting us meet our goals. Through this collaboration, we are able to expand our capacity to do biodiversity work and to ensure that the work is high quality with expert consensus. Institutionalizing support for biodiversity through council motions and permanent positions has also been crucial in being able to do this work. Filling existing vacancies will be crucial in continuing to expand the biodiversity work we do, and funding and grant opportunities to implement projects is similarly crucial.

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

We are collaborating with EPRI on an analysis of monarch pathways on LADWP natural lands. Report completion estimated at 2Q25. StreetsLA will continue to train landscape staff to select milkweed/pollinator friendly species in their designs where possible. Overall, we are committed to achieving and expanding upon our goals in an effort to restore, expand, and provide an enhanced environment for monarch butterflies and other important species 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

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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 continues to engage with multiple community organizations on biodiversity, tree planting, and various pollinator issues. We continue to coordinate internally with City departments in order to enhance biodiversity work to support pollinators and non-governmental organizations as well. We have engaged with the Theodore Payne Foundation, City Plants, TreePeople, UCLA, and the Natural History Museum of LA County on these topics.

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

We are currently engaging with the City's department of Recreation and Parks in order to identify regenerative management practices that best support pollinator health within park boundaries as part of our annual biodiversity reporting process. Additionally, we have collaborated with LA County to finish producing the LA Biodiversity Guidelines, which provides guidance on how to best support biodiversity, including pollinators during site design at various locations. Furthermore, we are coordinating with the Theodore Payne Foundation and UCLA to develop targeted native plant recommendations by local ecological zones within the City to best support pollinators and other key species.

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

The City is currently undergoing the creation of a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) , which will include a significant portion that focuses on environmentally disadvantaged communities and education. The City has currently created an initial basis for the LBSAP with recommending the key actions and goals that should be taken in order to protect and enhance biodiversity, such as the planting of native milkweed and other native plants. Right now, there is coordination between departments within the City and with biodiversity experts in order to refine these initial guidelines that have been developed. Additionally, community engagement will be conducted with an emphasis on environmentally disadvantaged communities in order to ensure that the strategy reflects local priorities and needs. After the refinement of initial planning through collaboration with various City departments, biodiversity experts, local stakeholders, and disadvantaged communities, the City will go through a formal plan creation process that will synergize with existing planning initiatives like the City's climate planning efforts. The City expects to have the LBSAP finished by the end of 2025 due to the significant amount of collaboration it will require.

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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. We have additionally collaborated with other groups and City departments, such as the LA Public Library and the Natural History Museum, to raise awareness about biodiversity, contributing to NWF certifications of properties. Furthermore, we have also coordinated with other organizations on various outreach efforts, such as giving presentations to UCLA practicums and to ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability).

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 2024. Recertification was possible due to a variety of outreach and engagement activities. City staff gave public presentations and maintained the City's official biodiversity webpage (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.

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).

1783

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

We coordinated with the Natural History Museum of LA County, as well as a working group within the City of LA Sanitation and Environment, LA Recreation and Parks, LA Department of Water and Power, and LA Public library in order to promote community science through the City Nature Challenge in April and the LA Bioblitz Challenge in October. Additionally, we shared the event with our Green Team members in two of our monthly member meetings as well as regularly promoting community science through the utilization of the iNaturalist application.

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

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We have two events that we have worked to develop and support: the City Nature Challenge and the LA Bioblitz Challenge. The City Nature Challenge is spearheaded by the Natural History Museum of LA County within LA, and the City played a supporting role through helping to raise awareness of the event and promote it through our stakeholders. Furthermore, the City hosted the LA Bioblitz Challenge, a month-long initiative that worked to promote community science across the City and increase observations through iNaturalist. LADWP initiated our first ever iNaturalist BioBlitz event at the Hollywood Reservoir this year in celebration of our new Pollinator Garden and Bee Hotel. You can find the iNaturalist page for these initiatives here: Hollywood Reservoir BioBlitz: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/hollywood-reservoir-biodiversity-2024. LA BioBlitz Challenge 2024: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/la-bioblitz-challenge-2024

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. More specifically, we have coordinated with the Theodore Payne Foundation, UCLA, and other key stakeholders on an initiative to scale native plant landscaping and develop guidance that recommends which native nectar producing plants and milkweed to plant at various locations, including at City properties. This marks an expansion of last year's work on this goal through refining our native nectar planting efforts to best support monarchs and other key native pollinators. This initiative will provide guidance to the City when landscaping properties, as well as refining current initiatives as described above to plant native nectar producing plants at City properties.

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's current efforts to plant at City properties are rolling as we continue this effort and as such will be reflected on individual projects, as described above. The coordination with the Theodore Payne Foundation, UCLA, and other experts and stakeholders is an ongoing initiative that will continue through 2025. After this collaboration, efforts will be finalized surrounding this effort likely by the end of 2025. The City will continue to work on existing initiatives, some of which are complete or others being planned as described in previous action items.

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

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

DWP is planting at two locations: 1.) Hollywood Reservoir: 2900 Lake Hollywood Dr. Los Angeles and 2.) Central District Yard- 433 Temple Street. StreetsLA is planting at rights-of-way medians through Clean CA: 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 StreetsLA 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). As of December 2024, construction completed at 4 of 6 Clean CA Median Greening Projects (Alameda Triangle, Avalon, Olive/Hill, East E). Remaining 2 of 6 medians (Sherman Way, Leimert) as well as Clean CA MLK Blvd project to be constructed by early 2025. The remaining projects are experiencing some delays due to contractor delays. The project team is considering grant extension due to delays with contractors commencement of work. Please note that at the moment we are working on establishing a more robust metrics program. The landscape team used California native, drought tolerant, pollinator friendly plants, shrubs and trees including milkweed and swamp milkweed for these projects. Most native plants are done through hydroseeding for StreetsLA projects, making exact quantities of plants planted to be determined, although we have included 1000 as a placeholder.

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

1000

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.

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 includes the use of low watering irrigation and non-use of pesticides/herbicides. Regular maintenance will be overseen by StreetsLA's Urban Forestry Division

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