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 2025

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.).

1515

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.)

500

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.

0.06

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.

LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP) converted 0.054 acres to native drought tolerant landscaping. The project is located at LADWP Templet yard, landscaping accessible to public off Temple St. Partnership with City Plants is currently being reviewed to incorporate more natives. Additionally, StreetsLA is anticipated to convert approximately 65,000 SF of landscaped medians to native landscaping, which will include milkweed planting (via hydroseeding).

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

LADWP is currently exploring ways to enhance our Turf replacement program as well as our Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program (LEAP). The change would require the ustilization of more native/pollinator friendly plants. The LEAP program specifically focuses on engaging marginalized communities. Additionally, the City continues to evaluate nature equity and how projects like nature based solutions can create monarch habitat and improve disadvantaged communities.

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

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. We want to build upon previous years' work to expand this program.

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?

Building capacity for this work is going to be the primary factor in effective expanding access to high quality nature. Developing partnerships and coordinating with organizations that can lead projects with the City supporting are ideal for pursuing implementation projects.

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

As detailed in the action items below, this program is currently a coordination between multiple departments. Making progress towards the goals requires a lot of collaboration, and we are always working to deepen our collaborations interdepartmentally to become more effective.

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.

LADWP is working to renew our partnership with City Plants. We are looking to incorporate more native/pollinator friendly inventory for our customers. We have further coordinated with other organizations on related topics, such as the creation of native plant palettes with the Theodore Payne Foundation and other coordination with organizations like Tree People.

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

We completed an initial exercise to draft plant palettes, but that effort is currently on pause. Additionally, LADWP coordinating with City Plants and other relevant group is an ongoing process that is still being fully determined.

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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 has continued to collect biodiversity goals across multiple departments and has hosted climate cabinet meetings to begin to develop a climate implementation plan. A draft of the plan is expected to be able to be available internally in the near future, and the plan will be refined further in order to develop a conservation strategy regarding climate and nature based solutions. Furthermore, the City has coordinated with various community organizations, academic institutions, and experts to precisely map nature equity, which we hope will be utilized in the climate plan.

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)

Construction completed at 4 of 6 Clean CA Median Greening Projects (Alameda Triangle, Avalon, Olive/Hill, East E). Remaining 2 of 6 medians (Leimert, Parthenia) as well as Clean CA MLK Blvd project are to be constructed by the end of the year. The remaining projects experiencing some delays due to contractor delays. Project team is considering grant extension due to delays with contractors commencement of work. Additionally, DWP has projects at the Hollywood Reservoir and the Central District Yard.

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

2500

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. The DWP projects should contain 0.53 acres. Because the planting is done through hydroseeding, the above value of 2500 is a very rough estimate and needs a more robust system of metrics to be fully evaluated.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Regular maintenance will be overseen by StreetsLA's Urban Forestry Division and DWP staff as needed.

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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?

For the recertification process, the points we earned are an ongoing result of previous years' work to encourage residents to certify their properties. However, we've continued to do community engagement through our Library, at academic institutions like UCLA, and working with our marketing team to reach a broader audience.

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

We recertified as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat.

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).

1515

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

We coordinated with LA Public Library, Recreation and Parks, DWP, the Natural History Museum of LA County, and

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

We developed and supported the LA Nature Quest, which is the City's community science initiative that takes place during the month of October. You can find a link here: https://www.lapl.org/nature

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?

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While working on this issue and related topics, City departments like LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), City Planning, and others have been working together.

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.

Currently, we are looking to influence City operations and policies surrounding native planting and other nature based solutions for the climate implementation plan that is currently being developed in the City. The plan is expected to have an internal draft available for review soon, and is expected to be finalized in 2026.

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