# City of Dallas

Dallas, TX

Mayor of Dallas Eric Johnson

## Pledge Summary

The City of Dallas in North Central Texas is located in the middle of the monarch butterfly migration path. Dallas is home to more than 400 park properties covering more than 23,000 acres, including 200 acres of Texas Blackland Prairie remnants. This means our city is well positioned to help save the monarch butterfly by planting gardens, restoring habitats, conducting educational outreach activities, and more. Dallas is eager to bolster its existing and begin new conservation efforts to protect monarchs and all pollinators.

## Action Items Committed for 2023

### 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- 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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

### Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Eric Johnson | 2026 | 4/15/2026 | |
| Mayor Eric Johnson | 2025 | 2/19/2025 | |
| Mayor of Dallas Eric Johnson | 2023 | 4/27/2023 | Leadership Circle |

## 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.).**

1200

**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.)**

~200 youth, 1000 adults

**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.**

316

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**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.**

~200 acres in park prairie management, 97 acres of managed wildflower areas, ~19 acres of public garden areas and Waystations

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

The Conservation Team and city wide forestry technical team strive to provide equitable outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts have included BioBlitz events in underserved community areas, summer camp habitat/invasive species efforts with recreation centers, guided walks with Master Naturalists, and targeted presentations.

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

The city is proud of our prairie management, Urban Forest Master Plan, and Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan. They are all interconnected and partner well with the Mayor's Monarch Pledge efforts.

**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?**

More resources in Spanish

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

The city continues to ramp up their overall conservation efforts across the city. This is reflected in the efforts by the departments to increase conservation related staff.

## 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:**

4/27/2023

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

PROC - Mayors Monarch Pledge Day 2023.pdf

### Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

Pollinator outreach.JPG

**Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.**

Conservation Manager and Urban Biologist are frequent speaker requests for garden clubs (4 this year), Master Naturalist engagements (4), and work with Texas Discovery Garden (Native Plant Sale) and the Texas Conservation Alliance (plantings in prairie areas). Provide technical guidance to volunteer groups overseeing Waystations on parks (5 groups overseeing 16 waystations).

### 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.

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

Pollinators Wanted Attracting Butterflies Bees and Hummingbirds to Your Parks.pdf

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

We have a wide variety of volunteers working on a variety to pollinator related efforts. Friends of Oak Cliff Parks, Friends of Crawford Park, Friends of Merriam Park, the Dallas Garden Club, and district park staff all oversees several Waystations. The North Texas Master Naturalists, Friends of Lakewood Park, the Native Plants and Prairies Association-Blackland Chapter, Peninsular Neighborhood

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Association and Texas Conservation Alliance all have adopted prairie units to assist with invasive species management, seed collection and planting, and biological surveys.

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

Parks Conservation Team works extensively with these groups through formal presentations and site technical guidance. On the prairie units (18 total units for ~200 acres) and managed wildflower areas (97 acres on ~110 units), Parks has mowing plans that change with the plant conditions, and generally timed around Monarch and bird migration (subject to change with weather/fire conditions).

## 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.**

MN Prairie management 2023.pdf

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

North Texas Master Naturalist Adopt a Prairie (NTMN, Peninsular Neighborhood Associaiton, Native Plant and Prairies Association-Blackland Prairie Chapter, Texas Conservation Alliance, Lakewood Neighborhood Association.....plus several Eagle Scout projects) Texas Discovery Garden Friends Groups (Crawford Park, Oak Cliff Parks (multiple parks), Merriam Park, Harry S. Moss) GreenSpace Dallas Friends of Bachman Lake

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.**

North Texas Master Naturalist----city staff update to MN, MN host Native Plants and Prairies Day in May, manage 2.5 acres of prairie area Adopt a Prairie (NTMN, Peninsular Neighborhood Associaiton, Native Plant and Prairies Association-Blackland Prairie Chapter, Texas Conservation Alliance, Lakewood Neighborhood Association.....plus several Eagle Scout projects)---Annual staff updates as requested, look for 15 hours per month per group during active growing season Texas Discovery Garden---hosts native plant sales each year, extensive outreach to public specific to Monarchs Friends Groups (Crawford Park, Oak Cliff Parks (multiple parks), Merriam Park, Harry S. Moss)--manages 16 waystations throughout the city GreenSpace Dallas---works on soft surface trail areas within the park department and Dallas Water Utility recreation areas. Includes invasive species removal and replanting with native seed where applicable. Have cleared ~10 acres of privet in the last year. Friends of Bachman---working on improving the trails and habitat in the Bachman Greenbelt. 3 year plan to remove ~12 acres of privet and establish an interpretive nature trail.

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

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

Adopt a Prairie.png

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

Teen outreach.png

**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.**

Most of the engagement was initially through the efforts of the Park's Urban Biologist implementing various objectives within the DPRD (Bird City Texas), and city wide objectives like the Urban Forest Master Plan and the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (both of which have urban habitat enhancement objectives). In 2023, within Parks, the efforts were enhanced with the creation of the Conservation Team. This include adding the Conservation Manager position, a new urban biologist and Supervisor-Pesticide Application (fully implement IPM plan). Keep in mind, the Park Department oversees more than 400 park properties. The Conservation Team works with district maintenance staff, and Community Engagement staff to identify conservation opportunities in various communities across the city. That may be in the form of presentations (Conservation Team members did over 30 conservation related presentations to a variety of audiences in 2023---it's all interconnected). Where possible, we partner to increase effectiveness in outreach. We work extensively with the Master Naturalists. This is usually a good avenue to reach multiple associated groups, and in some case get into historically underserved communities (example---work along the Buckeye Trail in the Bonton neighborhood). During the Earth-X event, we have a presenters and staff present to highlight our prairie and pollinator conservation work efforts. It is important to note that we also provide conservation related staff training to Parks staff, and associated other city departments (this is critical---example, planning for Emerald Ash borer... we have a LOT of ash trees on some areas). The last year we have work heavily with the interdepartmental Forestry Technical Team. This group was initially formed to respond to EAB and implement the Urban Forest Master Plan, but has morphed to cover many different conservation needs across city departments. Especially in the areas of wildfire mitigation planning (lots of room for pollinator conservation planning), invasive species management, and utilization of multi department's communication/engagement teams to get outreach materials out.

## Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

TDG.JPG

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

Branch Out Dallas.JPG

**How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

Texas Discovery Garden--Typically about ~10,000 assorted native plants sold, Branch Out tree planting program 2,600 trees (mostly native) given away

**How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

2400

**What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?**

Texas Discovery Gardens---(TDG)--they handle to native plant sale, sale until plants are sold out...Branch Out Dallas is coordinated by Dallas Water Utility and pass out ~2,600 trees every year (~92% native species...total # trees, 100% native to Texas). DWU partners with organizations like: Friends of Bachman Lake, Friends of Oak Cliff Parks, Kiest and Coombs Friends groups, Uvalde Law Group, Scouts BSA and Girls Scouts, Master Naturalists and Gardeners, Dallas Community Foresters to cover staff 6 hand out locations on the day of the give away.

## 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).

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

Bird City Texas.JPG

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

Bird City Texas---Cooperative Program between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Audubon Texas....Dallas Park and Recreation, Dallas Water Utilities, GreenSpace Dallas (formerly Groundworks Dallas), North Texas Master Naturalist, Trinity River Audubon Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dallas Animal Services

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

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department's Conservation Manager and Urban Biologist oversee the city's recertification process each year. There are 32 to practices carried out each year in the areas of Community Engagement, Habitat Enhancement, and Creating Safer Places for Birds. This is a pretty intensive program, but is interconnected with elements of IPM, the Park Departments Natural Resource Plan, Urban Forest Master Plan and CECAP. https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/certifiedcommunities/dallas

## 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.**

Mayor Monarch.jpg

**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)**

It is located at City Hall. Southwest corner of City Hall. 1500 Marilla St., Dallas Tx 75201

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

Initially a combination of Texas Discovery Garden and the North Texas Master Naturalists. Currently maintained by the Urban Biologist, looking for a new partner organization.

**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.**

0.03

## Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

Monarch 2023.JPG

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

Butterflies and moths 2023.JPG

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

Monarch Map 2023.JPG

**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).**

79

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

Master Naturalist, anyone showing up for the Pollinator specific BioBlitz

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

We typically participate in Texas Parks and Wildlifes "Pollinator BioBlitz" (October) and the National Recreation and Park Association's "Parks for Pollinators" in Sept. Dallas actually provided NRPA with the technicalities of running a bioblitz, and participate in their nationwide conservation outreach.....From several years ago, but an article that went nationwide..... https://www.nrpa.org/blog/where-are-your-bees-and-butterflies/

## Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

Invasive species.jpg

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

Teen outreach.png

**What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.**

100

**Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.**

With the prairie and forest management, the city has been working on invasive species for several years. There are objectives for invasive species management in the Park's Department "Natural Resource Management Plan), the Urban Forest Master Plan, and the CECAP. With the addition of the new biologist, one of their main job duties is acting as the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) coordinator over the department's 23,000 acres. Principally this will be looking at Johnsongrass and Queen Anne's Lace in the prairies, and privet and nandina in the forests. Methodologies include manual removal, strategically timed mowing/cutting, and when required, limited chemical application. We are also exploring goats in the next year to reduce invasives and fuel load.

## Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Natural Resource Management plan guidline.docx

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

Master Naturalists, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USFWS, Park Board, Environmental Commission, City Council

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

Parks "Natural Resource Management Plan" back in 2015. Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (April 2020) Specific to pollinators and habitat.. https://www.dallasclimateaction.com/ecostemsdashboard In 2021, Council passed the Urban Forest Master Plan

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which includes invasive species management and improved tree canopy, etc. Large document but here is the link https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/DCH%20Documents/City%20of%20Dallas%202021%20Urban%20Forest%20Master%20Plan.pdf

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

2015, 2020 and 2021

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

The plans are complete and very large in scope. Some elements are complete and others, like invasive species management will always be in progress.

## Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

IPM Update.JPG

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

North Texas Master Naturalists, TPWD, USFWS, outside arborists, AgriLife Extension.....keep in mind we have certified wildlife biologists, arborists, foresters and chemical applicators on staff

**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 IPM for Parks has been in place since 2008, we have been working in 2023 to update the IPM plan to more green chemicals and implementation of IPM principles. This one will always be "in progress" if it isn't, you are not adapting to the changing climate.

## Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

Dark Skies.JPG

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

Texas Conservation Alliance, various city departments but Office of Environmental Quality helped push this one

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

Complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

Spring 2019--Matched up with Bird City Texas https://www.tcatexas.org/lights-out-dfw https://www.dallascitynews.net/lights-out-texas

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

This is one that has been happening, especially in relateship to Bird City. We don't have a policy per say, but we are getting a number of businesses in Downtown participating now. Within Parks we do have Planning and Design related requirements related to Dark Skies (light angles, brightness, etc.) recommended for bird conservation.

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