City of Bastrop

Bastrop, TX

Mayor Lyle Nelson

Pledge Summary

Bastrop is a city within the Texas Monarch Flyway, making it an important destination for both the spring and fall Monarch migration. Bastrop currently has three active pollinator projects: Bastrop Public Library; Bob Bryant Park; and the new one coming online in 2024 in front of the City Hall. Bastrop is committed to increasing pollinator gardens on public land to help local pollinators and the Monarch butterfly and to encourage the public to get involved with this ongoing effort.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.

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

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Ishmael Harris	2026	4/1/2026	
Mayor Ishmael Harris	2025	3/4/2025	Signatories
Mayor Lyle Nelson	2024	2/18/2024	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.).

100

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.)

0

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.

0.01

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.

Our pollinator garden is located in front of Bastrop City Hall.

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

Haven't done this yet.

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

Replace non-native ornamentals with little pollinator value, using local natives including milkweed.

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?

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Helpful so far: Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Helpful in future: City providing platform for public outreach.

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

Rose and Bermudagrass have been replaced with native pollinator garden including milkweeds.

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:

February 13, 2024

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

Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor Monarch Challenge Pledge.24.pdf

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.

We work with Bastrop City Parks and Recreation on this project.

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

As a result, Bastrop City Park and Rec have reached out to use to redesign ALL City Hall beds, and to convert two acres of Bob Bryant Park to native prairie which will include Monarch nectar and shelter plants, plus milkweeds for Monarch larval hosting. All plants will be native to Bastrop County.

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

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

Bastrop County Master Gardener and Lost Pines Chapter, TX Master Naturalist associations planned, designed, installed, and maintained the bed in front of Bastrop City Hall.

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.

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

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bastrop County Master Gardener Association Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

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

Both groups have other projects besides the official Mayor's Monarch Pledge that are all involved with promoting native plants, selling native milkweeds at plant sales, and installing new native plantings throughout Bastrop County. Members of both groups are also involved with launching the Bastrop Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

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.

February 2024 City Hall Garden 1. Dirt Spreaders.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 5. Mulching Team.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 2. Planting Team.jpg

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

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March 2024 City Hall Garden 3. Unloading Mulch.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 4. Mulching.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 6. Planted Bed.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 7. Planted Bed.jpg

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

March 2024 City Hall Garden 8. Planted Bed.jpg

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

IMG_6964.jpg

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

IMG_6966.jpg

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

IMG_6968.jpg

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

IMG_6969.jpg

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

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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)

In front of Bastrop City Hall.

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

Bastrop County Master Gardener Association and the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist and the City of Bastrop Parks Department

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.

0.01

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.

IMG_6965.jpg

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

IMG_6967.jpg

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

IMG_6970.jpg

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

12

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

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Each sign has the plant's common name and taxonomic name.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

City of Bastrop Ordinance No. 2025-12 and 2025.13 native plants and invasive plants.pdf

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

Bastrop County Master Gardener Association, Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist, and the City of Bastrop Parks Department.

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 Ordinances passed the first reading at the Feb. 11 City Council Meeting. We anticipate ordinances to pass second reading on Feb. 25, 2025. Attached is the new city-recommended plant list. This is referenced by the City of Bastrop Parks Board, City Manager, and Senior City Planner.

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