# City of Bastrop

Bastrop, TX

Mayor Ishmael Harris

## Pledge Summary

Bastrop is located within the Texas Monarch Flyway, making it a significant destination for spring and fall Monarch migrations. Bastrop has four active pollinator projects: Bastrop Public Library, Bob Bryant Park, Bastrop City Hall completed in 2024 and in 2025 Bob Bryant Park Pollinator Prairie Project. Bastrop is dedicated to expanding pollinator gardens on public land to support local pollinators and the Monarch butterfly, while also encouraging public involvement in this ongoing effort.

## Action Items Committed for 2025

### 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.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- 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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- 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 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.**

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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.**

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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?**

We haven't done this yet.

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

Provide knowledge and resources to our community. Replace non-native ornamentals with little pollinator value, using local natives.

**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?**

The Master Naturalist and Master Gardener groups have been most helpful. The City of Bastrop Parks department have also been a great partner.

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

During the past year, at Bastrop City Hall we added Lantana, Gregg's Mistflower, and Little Bluestem which are excellent for pollinators, Gulf Coast Muhly provides habitat and some food for wildlife. Silver Ponyfoot is beneficial, offering habitat and structure for pollinators.

## Selected Action Items

### Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

**Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).**

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

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

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## 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.**

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

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

**What species were collected or propagated?**

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

**Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.**

## 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?**

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

## Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

**How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

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

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

**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.**

## Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

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

**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.**

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

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

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

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

**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.**

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

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

**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.**

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

## 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:**

March 25, 2025

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

Pledge to join the National Wildlife Foundation Mayors' Monarch Pledge, striving to make Bastrop a destination for Monarchs and other pollinators.

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

2025 Proclamation Mayor's Monarch Challenge City of Bastrop.pdf

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

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

300

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

100

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

Bastrop County Master Gardeners

## 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.**

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

15

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

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

## 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.**

b3 code.docx

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

The City of Bastrop continues to be a dark sky compliant community since 2019.

**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.**

Bastrop is an International Dark Sky compliant community, and lighting is regulated accordingly.

## Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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**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.**

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**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)**

The demonstration garden is located at Bastrop City Hall. The original large raised bed, planted in 2024, is maintained by members of the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs. In 2025, additional planting areas were added around the City Hall sidewalks and parking lots, featuring five species of native plants that support pollinators. While the location does not have a direct cultural significance to monarchs, placing the demonstration garden at City Hall makes it a highly visible and educational site. It provides residents and visitors with an accessible way to learn about the monarch's ecological importance and the cultural value communities place on conserving this iconic species.

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

Bastrop County Master Gardener and Lost Pines Chapter, TX Master Naturalist

**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.**

.02

## 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.**

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Bastrop City Parks and Recreation, Master Naturalist program and Master Gardener program.

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

The City of Bastrop Parks department reached out to the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists to add native pollinator plants and plants that are helpful to pollinators in areas around the sidewalks and parking lots at City Hall. These were installed after City staff removed the existing non native plants, including rose bushes.

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