The Woodlands Township

The Woodlands, TX

Chairperson of the Board of Directors Dr. Ann Snyder

Pledge Summary

The Woodlands Township, located 27 miles north of downtown Houston, Texas, is the local government for one of the country's leading master-planned communities. This 28,000-acre residential and commercial development is home to more than 120,000 residents and more than 2,000 businesses. The Woodlands Township and citizens of The Woodlands have joined communities around the nation to recognize the importance of creating and preserving pollinator habitat. The Board of Directors for The Woodlands Township have committed to help save the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayors Monarch Pledge. To honor the pledge to support monarch butterflies, and all pollinators, The Woodlands Township is working with residents, businesses, churches and schools to raise awareness and create more pollinator habitat across our community.

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.
- 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.

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

- 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
Chairman Brad Bailey	2026	12/8/2025	
Chairman Brad Bailey	2025	4/29/2025	Leadership Circle
Chairperson of the Board of Directors Dr. Ann Snyder	2024	3/14/2024	Leadership Circle
Chairperson of the Board of Directors Dr. Ann Snyder	2023	4/21/2023	Leadership Circle
Mrs. Monique Sharp	2022	1/14/2022	Signatories
Chairman of the Board of Directors Gordy Bunch	2021	2/5/2021	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.).

30000

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.)

7000

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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.

23.5

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.

yards, containers, medians, roadsides, parks, schools, public spaces, township buildings

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

offering free events, classes and programs. Giving away free native plants, trees and seeds. Serving as a resource of knowledge for all residents of the community.

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

To increase awareness, increase habitat availability, and overall help residents in the community.

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?

perhaps examples of what other organizations are doing to fulfill their action items.

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

We are working with native nurseries to grow out milkweed for us to giveaway to residents - we hope next year to distribute over 1000 milkweed plants to help continue building habitat for the monarch. We have worked really hard in ensuring that our educational materials and programs are up to date and that changes are implemented as needed.

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:

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5/4/2024

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

Monarch Butterfly Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation.pdf

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.)

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

Registration Form_2021.pdf

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

Final 2024 fall p4p bioblitz.docx

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

We have an ongoing plant for pollinators program that educated residents on the importance of planting for pollinators in their home gardens. We allow residents to register their garden to receive a window cling signifying they are providing pollinator habitat. New this year we encouraged residents to participate in the parks for pollinators BioBlitz, which encouraged them to use inaturalist to identify native pollinators in our community. We write countless blogs and magazine articles that pertain to the importance of monarchs and other pollinators, encouraging residents to be mindful and create sustainable landscapes in their home. Social media ie; facebook and instagram are utilized to disperse this information to our younger audiences.

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.

Our community partners include Montgomery county master gardeners, Texas Master Naturalists, Veggie Village through Interfaith and Native Plant Society of Texas. We work

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with these community partners at the Community Garden Day event - in which we educate residents on the importance of planting natives. We serve as a resource for these garden groups urging them not only to plant natives but also to grow out natives, milkweed included, to giveaway to residents at our events.

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

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)

8203 Millennium Forest Drive

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

Native Plant Society of Texas

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.

0.15

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

26

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

At our demonstration garden at 8203 Millennium Forest Drive - we added signage to all displayed plants. Each sign displays the common name and scientific name of the plant.

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?

Veggie Village, Native Plant Society of Texas, The Woodlands GREEN

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

50

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We continue to support the three community gardens within the township by providing native milkweed and nectar producing seeds. Currently all of our community gardens contain milkweed and plenty of nectar producing plants. We were able to left over plants from one of our events to veggie village and help them create a monarch patch in their portion of the garden.

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.

IMG_0789.JPG

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

IMG_0787.JPG

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

IMG_0777.JPG

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

Sally K Ride 2 .jpg

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

centerpoint 2.jpeg

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

IMG_0749.JPG

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

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The Woodlands Township Transportation Department The Woodlands Township Streetscape Department The Woodlands Township Forestry Department Boy Scouts of America Invasive Species Task Force The Woodlands Green Sally K Ride Elementary Centerpoint Energy

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

The Township transportation department, Boy scouts of America, The Woodlands Green and Invasive Species Task Force, all worked together on an eagle project at one of the Park and Ride facilities in The Woodlands. We had 26 volunteers that removed 386.5 pounds of invasive waste from the property, and painted "No Mow" on the curbs. We work with The Woodlands Township Streetscapes department to plant native wildflower seeds and bluebonnet seeds in the medians, on a no-mow schedule in both the spring and fall planting windows. We had the opportunity to donate mulch and plants to Sally K. Ride Elementary PTO as they continue to create pollinator patches. They had a planting workday with Cub Scout Pack 883, where they removed some diseased plants, replaced with native wildflowers, and mulched to keep the moisture in. Environmental Services will continue to assist Sally K. Ride as they turn their outdoor spaces into pollinator havens. During our annual community tree planting event we partnered with The Woodlands Township Forestry department and Centerpoint Energy to carve out a pollinator area for our pollinator of the year "Grey hairstreak" we planted false indigo, and sowed partridge pea and annual winecup seeds.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

mural 3.jpeg

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

mural 1.jpg

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

The Woodlands Township, Howard Huges Corporation, Local Artists Amy Malkan & Marlo Saucedo

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

75

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Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

In honor of The Woodlands 50th anniversary - a new mural "The Beauty of Nature in The Woodlands" was unveiled on October 17th. Howard Hughes commissioned the piece and gifted it to The Woodlands Township. Local Artists Amy Malkan and Marlo Saucedo combined their talents and enlisted local art students and residents to help paint the piece, which incorporates native elements representing the beauty of the Woodlands. It is the first public art mural in the community and reflects the heart of the Woodlands - the seamless connection between its residents and the natural environment. The piece incorporates native flora and fauna including the monarch - representing our commitment to creating habitat for our state insect.

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

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

Arbor Day tree giveaway .jpeg

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

Lindsays 1 .JPG

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

Woodlands Nursery 1 .JPG

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

MCMG 1 .JPG

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

3 events - Seed/tree giveaway (19,680) plant swap (~200) plant sale (~1550)

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

4500

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

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Native Plant Society of Texas, Windsor Hills Neighborhood, Lindsays Native Plants, Woodlands Nursery, Brushwolf Prairie Wholesale nursery, Montgomery County Master Gardeners, Veggie Village, The Woodlands Green

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)

All medians within The Woodlands Township are seeded with native milkweed 8203 Millennium Forest Drive Windsor Hills Drive 8001 McBeth Way

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

48

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.

17.9931

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Where: Residents are encouraged to plant milkweed in green spaces throughout the community, including cul de sac islands and green belts. We distribute native milkweed and wildflower seed to the community throughout the year, but do not require residents to report back where they planted seeds. The Parks Department Streetscapes Division seeds native wildflowers and bluebonnets in medians annually in the fall. This is done extensively throughout the community on a number of major thoroughfares such as Research Forest Dr, Gosling Rd, Woodlands Parkway, Lake Woodlands Dr, and Kuykendahl Rd among others. Maintenance Schedule: A mix of milkweed, native nectar plants and bluebonnets are seeded in fall. Full right-of-way mowing is delayed in the spring to give wildflowers time to bloom and set seed. Instead, the Township contractor performs "sculpture mowing", where only a narrow strip closest to the curb or roadway is cut to help maintain a neat edge. A determinization is made annually after the wildflowers have bloomed to proceed with full mowing of medians and roadways. At our demonstration garden and our pollinator easement we added 48 aquatic milkweed species plugs. At 8001 McBeth way we seeded native butterfly weed.

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

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

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27.5

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.

We have an ongoing Invasive Species Task Force that is a volunteer effort to remove invasive species in public spaces of The Woodlands Township. This is a collaborative effort between the Forestry and Environmental Services Departments. We use garden tools and our hands to physically remove invasive vines and plants from our public spaces including township parks, pathways, greenspaces, transportation lots, medians and rights-of-way. This program typically removes an average of 8,000 pounds of invasive green waste a year.

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.

Montgomery County Master Gardener Association, The Woodlands GREEN, Texas Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society of Texas, NABA/BEST, Mercer Arboretum, Lindsay's Native Plants, Woodlands Nursery, Plantonic Friends, Grogan's Mill Farmers Market, Texas Forest Service, Veggie Village, Nature’s Way Resources, MicroLife, Woodlands Water Agency, Discovery School of Innovation, National Charity League (multiple Chapters), National Charity Roundtable and Veggie Village.

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

Representatives from many community organizations and groups were invited to participate at our annual gardening event to help us celebrate our community wide efforts toward monarch habitat conservation. Events included Woodlands Landscaping Solutions, Arbor Day, Community Tree Planting, Pop-up Pollinator Patches, Plant Swaps, Community Garden Day and Small Space Gardening for Pollinators program.

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.

Birding Backpack Flyer.pdf

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

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Backpack 3.png

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

Texas Master Naturalists, Wild Birds Unlimited, Birding with Joy, TPWD, Visit The Woodlands, Recreation

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

We have maintained our designated wildlife habitat certification through National Wildlife Federation. We host our own team for TPWD's Great Texas Birding Classic Competition, and we have continued to promote our Birding backpack program, where residents can (for free) come pick up a backpack that has a stool, notebook, binoculars, bird lists and field guides. Residents are encouraged to bird with friends and family. We also host a BioBlitz every year in June- encouraging residents to use iNaturalist to identify native flora and fauna. New this year we participated in the park for pollinator BioBlitz - engaging over 100 residents the month of September to get out and identify pollinators.

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?

Native Plant Society of Texas, Veggie Village

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.

we have completed the first phase in our PARDES Campus monarch waystation and pollinator garden. Native nectar producing plants are in place and thriving. Irrigation has been installed, as well as some trellises. We still need to add milkweed (we are trialing a few species currently), and finish adding in the native grass species. we hope to complete by spring next year. For budget year 2025 we got the board of directors to increase the Plant for Pollinator budget from $5,000 a year to $6,500 a year. This budget is strictly used for pollinator support in the form of seeds, plants and educational resources for the community. This program supports scout projects, school habitats, seeds for landowners and milkweed giveaways. This budget is used for all pollinator plots on township properties, allowing for more native plants to be installed. Increasing the budget for this program is a

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huge step effort in changing our municipal planting practices to include more native milkweed and nectar plants.

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