City of Laguna Vista

Laguna Vista, TX

Mayor Michael Carter

Pledge Summary

Laguna Vista is a beautiful small community nestled on the beautiful Laguna Madre Bay just before South Padre Island. We are neighbors to the Atascosa Wildlife Refuge and very committed to nature conservation. Our city has several beautiful parks, including a bird watching nature trail. Mayor Smith has committed to the saving the monarch and other pollinators by signing the Monarch pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.)

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.

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michael Carter	2024	5/6/2024	

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Mayor Michael Carter	2021	2/6/2021	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.).

1800

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 youth and 1300 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.

10

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.

Public parks, Library, City Hall, Historical Sites, (new) South Texas Ecotourism Center, residences.

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

Part of our residents of low income and color live in housing projects and in the our ETJ-extra territorial jurisdiction which is Laguna Heights culturally plant species in their yards that lure butterflies.

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

Our community's strength and identify is nature. We live in an area that is surrounded by the Laguna Madre Bay on the east, the Laguna Atascosa on the North, protected lands on the west and protected lands on the south(the Bahia Grande flats). We are proud that our community is rich with natural habitats which native flora and fauna and our goal is to preserve this habitat around us.

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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?

Your newsletters and emails keeps us up with the national trends of helping to meet our goals conserving and adding monarch habitat but helps us as a community in keeping and preserving our surrounding habitat. I feel that the information I receive from the Mayors Monarch Pledge Programs helps us with our goals.

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

We engaged with a local eagle scout who project is to establish two butterfly gardens. One at our Rolrk ad one at thenoff Pa Laguna Vista Public Library. We are working with the CaraCara Trails program which connects nature trails with others in the Rio Grande Valley Region. We are working on a group of Master Gardener's who specialize in butterly and nature centers to help us with our nature trails. The Town of Laguna Vista voted in making our official town tree the La Retama Tree that attracts butterflies as well.

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).

We shared information sent to us to our residents through our email blast and next door program.

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?

We worked with our Parks and Recreation committee and our Public Works Department.

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

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in progress

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.

na

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

We have planted native plants during the spring and are working with an eagle scout with our Parks and Recreation committee and public works department to complete two butterfly gardens. One located at City Hall/ Roloff park and the other at the Public Library grounds.

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?

Parks and Recreations Committee, Mayor, Laguna Madre Museum Foundation

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 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.

na

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

We are still planting and selecting plants. Our target date is Spring of 2022.

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

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

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All the community has participated in the proposed Park Master Plan which I am almost finished with.

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

The Master Plan will be completed and approved in January of 2022

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.

na

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

I am working on the Parks master plan and will incorporate monarch gardens in the plan.

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:

Proclamation Issued via Resolution 2023-29

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

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

EXECUTED RESOLUTION 2023-29 Proclamation-Monarch Pledge.pdf

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)

At the Laguna Vista Library a Butterfly garden was established and being maintained by City Staff and Volunteers.

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

The Garden was installed by an Eagle Scout and we continue to partner with the Rio Grand Master Naturalists to ensure we maintain the proper and upmost care to our plant life for the butterfly gardens around the City.

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.

0.1

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