City of Buda

Buda, TX

Mayor Lee Urbanovsky

Pledge Summary

Buda is a city nestled just south of Austin in the Texas Hill Country. With a population of approximately 16,000 that is experiencing the in-demand growth of Central Texas, Buda strives to maintain the small town feel and charm that its citizens love and are accustomed to. The community of Buda recognizes the importance of monarch butterflies and other pollinator species, not only as a symbol of natural beauty, but also as an essential and crucial aspect for maintaining ecosystem balance. Designated as the Outdoor Capital of Texas, Buda also boasts the achievements of being recognized as a Tree City USA, Monarch City USA, and Bee City USA 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Lee Urbanovsky	2026	4/30/2026	
Mayor Lee Urbanovsky	2025	2/10/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Lee Urbanovsky	2024	3/28/2024	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.).

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.)

50

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

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.

Past habitats have been created at the City's Welcome Center as well as in various public parks. In season, wildflowers grow along the right-of-way of many streets in town, that are left to grow until the monarch season has ended.

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

As a first time participant of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the City used this year to familiarize themselves with the pledge and what resources are available to them through the NWF. In 2025, the City will be proactive in creating additional habitat space and programming to promote wildlife habitat and sensitivities to all communities.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

The City of Buda is a wildlife friendly city, having already obtained Bee City USA and Monarch City USA status. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge was taken to continue Buda's commitment to preserving and creating habitat for all pollinators.

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?

Master Naturalists and Gardeners have been a great resource for us regarding education and best pratices.

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

Buda is very passionate about monarch conservation, and will utilize the NWF resources to continue to preserve habitat and promote conservation and sustainability.

Selected Action Items

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.

Two; City of Buda Staff and Hays County Master Gardeners.

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

The City of Buda Library will have held 15 workshops with Master Gardeners in 2024, aimed to provide answers to questions, provide valuable resources, and chat about local gardening. Other, more specific workshops with Master Gardeners have included discussion on worm composting, the Texas Superstar Program, Gardens and Bees presentations, and more.

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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

City of Buda Staff (Parks and Recreation Department, Development Services Department), as well as City boards and commissions such as the Parks and Recreation Commission and Sustainability Commission.

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

The City of Buda is a designated member of Monarch City USA, as well as Tree City USA.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

N/A

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.

This action was actually completed in 2022. The City has an ordinance that exempts wildflowers from being mowed between April 1st to May 31st.

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

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

City Staff, City's Sustainability Commission, Dark Sky International

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 City has actively been working on an application to become a Certified Dark Sky Community through the International Dark Sky Association. Final steps of the application

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

are being worked through now, with completion of the application process expected in early 2025. The City's lighting ordinance has already been changed earlier this year in further alignment with the Dark Sky Association's requirements and desires, including reduced lumens for light fixtures, no uplighting, and all fixtures must be fully cutoff.

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.

Pollinator Garden 1.jpg

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

Pollinator Garden 2.jpg

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

Pollinator Garden 3.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)

The demonstration garden is located at the City's Welcome Center building, located prominently along Main Street in Buda's historic downtown. The Welcome Center is located at 303 N Main St, Buda, TX 78610.

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

The City has partnered with its Main Street Advisory Board and Sustainability Commission to build and maintain the garden.

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

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Unknown

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

50

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

The City of Buda library has a collection of native seeds available for free in the library. People may take seed packets or leave seeds themselves. Additionally, the City hosted a native plant swap on OCtober 19, 2024, where participants brought in starters and cuttings of various native houseplants, succulents, trees, shrubs, etc for swapping.

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.

City of Buda Development Services, Public Works, Parks and Recreation departments, and the Sustainability Commission.

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

Staff has had preliminary discussion on altering typical schedules in 2025 to help further preserve existing native plant habitats throughout our public parks.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Monarch Sign.jpg

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

1

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]

We currently have one sign at the pollinator garden at the Welcome Center that is not necessarily educational, but does identify the area as a pollinator garden. See attached image.

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:

n/a

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

This item was not achieved this year, but will in Spring 2025

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Buda Proclamation.docx

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u684:v1.14.0.49966]