City of Buda

Buda, TX

Mayor Lee Urbanovsky

Pledge Summary

Buda is a city in central Texas with a population of roughly 17,000 people. Receiving the designation of the Outdoor Capital of Texas, Buda has committed to creating outdoor recreation space for its community, as well as protecting habitat for various pollinator species. By signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, Buda is furthering this commitment to protecting and creating pollinator habitat throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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).
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.
- 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 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-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- 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.

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 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.

0.5

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

The City of Buda is a wildlife friendly city. A principle of the City of Buda's Vision 2040 Strategic Plan is "Beautiful (Buda-ful) Community", establishing "Great parks, open spaces and natural areas with opportunities for all to experience and enjoy" and "Well-maintained

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open/green spaces throughout our Buda" as means of fulfilling this aspect of Buda's vision. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge was taken in order to demonstrate Buda's commitment to this principle.

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?

In terms of internal resources, dedicated staff (Parks & Recreation Department and Library, etc.) that is always willing to contribute in order to achieve goals. Externally, easy access to information has been invaluable. Additionally, Master Naturalists and Gardeners have been a great resource in regards to education and best practices. Examples are always welcome - What does the NWF like to see? Easy access to information is always the most useful resource.

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.).

15000

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.

Parks and shared public spaces.

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

Spaces dedicated to the Monarch Pledge (pollinator gardens, etc.) are available to all.

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.)

4470

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

The City of Buda is actively seeking Dark Sky Community Designation.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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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).

There is a sign located at the Welcome Center in Buda at 303 Main St, Buda, TX 78610 to alert visitors that the garden is a monarch habitat.

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

Monarch Sign Welcome Center.jpg

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?

City of Buda

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

NA

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.

Buda Comprehensive Plan includes the Monarch Pledge; adopted Jan 3, 2024

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

Our Buda Our Future Comprehensive Plan Monarch Pledge.pdf

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e.,

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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?

Tree City USA, City of Buda Development Services

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

The City maintains a Tree Preservation, Mitigation, and Care Ordinance: https://ecode360.com/40960471#41032685

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.

Screenshot 2025-04-16 152511.png

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

The City of Buda has information on how to create a pollinator garden on the website https://www.budatx.gov/972/Pollinator-Gardens.

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)

Stagecoach Park 880 Main St, Buda, TX 78610

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

Buda Parks Department, Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas

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

DJI_0245.JPG

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.

0.24

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

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

0

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

Monarch_Milkweed No Mow.pdf

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Stagecoach Park has two endemic type of milkweed that has its seed collected and reseeded or propagated and planted back in the park along with other native Texas varieties purchased or rescued from construction sites. Shown are Elkhorn and Honey vine or Tayalote milkweeds found in Stagecoach Park.

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

Parks and Recreation Dept

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.

City of Buda Library staff has engaged with Master Gardeners, scheduling several events and workshops throughout 2025. These events did not focus on planting native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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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.

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

Engagement primarily with Parks & Recreation Department. Stagecoach Park has two endemic type of milkweed that has its seed collected and reseeded or propagated and planted back in the park along with other native Texas varieties purchased or rescued from construction sites. Shown are Elkhorn and Honey vine or Tayalote milkweeds found in Stagecoach Park. There are plans to expand the meadow and a strict no mow and no herbicide practice is use in this area. Currently bio blitzes have been conducted to evaluate the work done and the findings are good as host plants are being used for nesting and food habitat.

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

Monarch_Milkweed No Mow.pdf

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

None.

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

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).

City of Buda staff was not involved in a community art project in 2025. A Hays Consolidated Independent School District (HCISD) community art project is planned for Spring of 2026. Intended contest themes center around air pollution reduction.

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

HCISD to host the event.

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).

0

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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.

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

0

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.

City of Buda staff did not initiate an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators in 2025.

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

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 completed in 2022. The City of Buda passed an ordinance exempting wildflowers from being mowed between April 1st and May 31st.

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

N/A

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

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

In progress

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

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City of Buda staff, City of Buda Sustainability Commission, Dark Sky International

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

TBD

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

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?

City of Buda Library staff held two swap events in 2025 (April 19, 2025 and October 18, 2025). City of Buda Development Services staff hosted a giveaway event on June 17, 2025.

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

Life Cycle Assessment 1.png

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

Unknown

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.

No target date determined. The City of Buda encourages residents to practice "green" landscaping by minimizing the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Chemical use is discouraged when rain is forecasted and using mulch to prevent erosion. Additionally, the City of Buda suggests using least toxic pesticides and following label directions on all chemicals. The City of Buda also promotes the use of lawn fertilizers that contain at least

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50% slow-release nitrogen and encourages the development of strategies to keep rain on the property, such as rain gardens or planted swales.

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

N/A

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

The City of Buda did not initiate community-driven educational programs focused on underserved residents during 2025.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

0

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

No milkweed seed collection and propagation effort was hosted in 2025.

What species were collected or propagated?

N/A

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

N/A

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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.

0

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

No median or public right-of-way areas were planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in 2025.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

N/A

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

0

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.

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

City of Buda Library staff held 7 workshops with Master Gardeners, scheduling several events and workshops throughout 2025. These workshops were aimed at providing education, resources, and a forum of discussion regarding local gardening. More specific topics included vermicomposting, drip irrigation, and native plant species.

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

Two: City of Buda staff and Master Gardeners.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

None

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please

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include a link to the program, if possible)

N/A

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

N/A

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

N/A

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

N/A

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

N/A

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

No community science program was initiated by City of Buda staff in 2025.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

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0

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

N/A

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:

This item was not achieved this year, but will in Spring 2026.

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

Title to be determined (Pollinator Week is likely to be the proclamation title).

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Buda Proclamation 2026.docx

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