City of Tempe

Tempe, AZ

Mayor Corey Woods

Pledge Summary

Tempe, Arizona, is about 40 square miles nestled in the greater Phoenix metro area, all within the Sonoran Desert. Tempe is home to about 185,000+ residents, and with those residents, the city has embarked on a multifaceted approach to nurture and encourage monarch butterfly and other pollinator populations. Tempe collaborates with local environmental organizations, ASU, and the community through a variety of interventions, including: educational programs, plantings in public spaces and gardens, and future inclusion in city plans. With unwavering dedication, Tempe serves as a shining example of how urban areas can actively contribute to the conservation of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Corey Woods	2026	3/23/2026	
Mayor Corey Woods	2025	4/22/2025	Signatories
Mayor Corey Woods	2024	4/17/2024	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.).

250

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.

15

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.

Rights-of-way, roadsides, shared public spaces and common areas or parks. Schools and places of worship to be added soon!

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

The work that our office does is focused on the hottest, less-shaded and less-vegetated parts of Tempe, which tracks with BIPOC communities.

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

Sustainability & Resilience is a new office and focused on increasing Sonoran-native plantings, and this dovetails well!

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The most helpful resource has been my local chapter of NWF, the AZ Wildlife Federation, plus the AZ Monarch Collaborative. Resources with local orgs would be great (nurseries, policies, curriculum, etc).

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

Our current effort is small but growing!

Selected Action Items

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)

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

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.

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

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).

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

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

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.

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Date of Proclamation:

May 21 2024

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Proclamation Monarch.png

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Tempe Takes the Monarch Pledge 🦋 Press Release.pdf

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

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.

5th St 3 8.28.24.jpg

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

5th St 8 8.28.24.jpg

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

5th St 9 8.28.24.jpg

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

13th Street 1 8.28.24.jpg

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

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13th Street 2 8.28.24.jpg

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

13th Street 4 8.28.24.jpg

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

Mill ave and 12th St Birchett Triangle Warner Median (101 and Warner) Warner & Lakeshore Rural Rd & Encanto (Residential Side) 5th St - Ash to Priest 13th Street - Judd to Hardy

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

75

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.

15

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These medians and rights-of-way are regularly maintained by Transportation staff and have an annual rotation of maintenance.

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)

5

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?

We gave away native milkweed at a neighborhood celebration event that recognized leaders in the community, as voted on by our Sustainability & Resilience Commission.

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Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Within the city system, new plantings that Sustainability & Resilience has influence over will have pollinator plants, including Milkweed (two food forests in 2025) Outside the city system: We are starting to work with Tempe elementary district 3, specifically a Montessori school, to create a pollinator garden to be certified by the desert botanical garden. Further, we are now members of the AZ Monarch Collaborative.

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.

Internally: Sustainability & Resilience staff are coordinating with: Parks Rangers, Right of Way team, and Tempe's Urban Forester

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

This is Tempe's first year engaging with interionally proctecting and creating habitat to benefit Monarchs and other Sonoran desert pollinators. The catalyst of new staff combined with joining an established group like the Arizona Monarch Collaborative is powerful for planning future work

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).

Currently, we have started with a webpage on the Sustainability & Resilience portion of the City of Tempe website. https://www.tempe.gov/government/transportation-and-sustainability/sustainability/monarch-butterfly-conservation Future updates to the site will have milkweed sourcing, locations of planted milkweeds, links to preferred trees and shrubs (for pollinators overall) and more! (The city is overhauling the web's branding, so no changes are able to be made until that's complete. Further, Sustainability & Resilience has been reorganized and its web pages will *also* undergo an overhaul!)

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