City of Tempe

Tempe, AZ

Mayor Corey Woods

Pledge Summary

Tempe, Arizona acknowledges the important role pollinators play in maintaining biodiversity, supporting local food systems, and guarding ecological resilience. The city is an urban hub in the Phoenix Metro Area, and is committed to integrating pollinator-friendly landscapes across public spaces, parks, and urban corridors. Through future-thinking policies and community-driven initiatives, Tempe is installing Sonoran-native vegetation that support butterflies, bees, and other pollinator species. Efforts include expanding rainwater harvesting coupled with desert plantings, collaboration with other city departments, and encouraging residents and businesses to plant milkweed and nectar-rich flora. By embracing conservation as a key element of its sustainability vision, Tempe is not only safeguarding monarchs and pollinators but also fostering a healthier, more vibrant urban environment for generations to come.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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.
- 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).

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Past Pledge Archive

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, medians, shared public spaces and common areas or parks. Newly added projects include residences and YMCA.

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

Tempe's Sustainability & Resilience Division targets the areas of our city which tend to have the highest urban heat, less shade, fewer trees and less vegetation. These areas track with low income and marginalized communities.

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

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As the Sustainability & Resilience Division grows into more mature work, the backbone increased vegetation, and of pollinator habitat generally, and monarch habitat in particular, is a high priority to our work.

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?

The most helpful resource has been the AZ Monarch Collaborative, plus my local chapter of NWF, the AZ Wildlife Federation. 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?

I would love an call with or affinity group comprised of Southwest Mayor's Monarch cities.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

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.

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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:

September 4th 2025

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2025 Mayors Monarch 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.)

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

The City of Tempe hosts a monarch resource page at tempe.gov/Monarch We are slowly building it out with resource material, FAQs and more. Events and initiatives' social media around the pledge appear in other sections.

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.

Friday Packet 11.14.2025.pdf

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

Maricopa Native Seed Library, a service of Maricopa Community Colleges

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

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Tempe/Maricopa Pollinator Pathway Program is a pilot launched in October 2025 to help residents in Tempe's most heat vulnerable area to plant pollinator and nectar plants at their residences. We hope to repeat this yearly!

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.

Friday Packet 11.14.2025.pdf

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

19 milkweed + hundreds of wildflower seeds

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

42

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

AZ Wildlife Federation & South Mountain Community College

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 Tempe's government, neighborhoods have an opportunity to apply for and receive grants that will benefit and beautify their neighborhoods, and we have now included a pollinator and green stormwater infrastructure component into that grant program. The neighborhood leaders take charge of these grants from start to finish: getting bids, picking plants, and hiring contractors to install.

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.

Tempe is looking a bit greener.pdf

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

Tempe manages apx 4500 acres of rights of way and medians. Now that the Sustainability and Resilience Division oversees the ROW maintenance program (and related Performance Measure) we will have a growing database of milkweed all throughout the city. The attached document outline the largest parking lot project SRD undertook this year, removing a tennis court's worth of pavement and creating lots of NEW habitat.

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

180

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.

10

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Medians and rights-of-way are regularly maintained by hired contractors and have a monthly rotation of maintenance.

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