OKC

Oklahoma City, OK

Mayor David Holt

Pledge Summary

Oklahoma City is committed to monarch conservation efforts. The Oklahoma Zoo, with its mission of conservation, leads our efforts to create and improve habitats for monarchs and other pollinators, both in practice and public education. The Oklahoma City Parks Department plants milkweed gardens throughout the City's extensive park system and creates waystations that provide resources for monarchs during their migration through Oklahoma City. OKC's signature park – the 70-acre Scissortail Park in downtown Oklahoma City – plants some of the monarchs' favorites, such as milkweed and coneflowers, and assists in migration tracking efforts.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.

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.
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor David Holt	2026	4/19/2026	
Mayor David Holt	2025	3/14/2025	Signatories
Mayor David Holt	2024	5/21/2024	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.).

6925

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.)

6625

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

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.

private and public schools, community gardens, yards

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

A Fix-it and Flower Festival was held at a senior wellness center is the Northeast OKC. This area has been designated as blighted. Participants were asked to pledge to plant for monarchs. If they signed the pledge, they were given free milkweed plants, pollinator seed mix, grow bags and soil to plant for monarchs and other pollinators. They were also provided with resources about how to plant.

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

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The community has an active statewide organization, the Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative. This group is very active in OKC continues to generate interest in planting habitat for 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?

We rely on the Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative for most of our resources.

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

A Monarch Summit was held in OKC in August 2024. Over 100 key stakeholders from across the state attended this two-day meeting, which reviewed progress on the statewide first five-year monarch and pollinator conservation plan and held planning sessions to develop the next five-year plan.

Selected Action Items

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Screenshot 2024-12-12 110038.png

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

Screenshot 2024-12-12 105400.png

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

Screenshot 2024-12-12 110153.png

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

Screenshot 2024-12-12 110246.png

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

50

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

Signs provide information about: benefits of pollinators to human food supply, importance of replacing turf grass with native plants, importance of stopping pesticide use, how to create pollinator habitat, and benefits of native plants for soil health.

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

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

OKCZooPFPApp2024.pdf

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 Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden (OKC Zoo) is a City of Oklahoma City Trust. OKC Zoo is located in Northeast Oklahoma City (Northeast OKC). This neighborhood is designated as blighted and has been historically underserved. OKC Zoo organized a Fix-It and Flower Festival event at the senior wellness center in this community to connect residents with nature and empower them to create habitat for native species. Free resources were provided to empower people to plant for pollinators. Those who attended the event and signed a pledge to plant for pollinators received one 10-gallon grow bag, milkweed and nectar plants, and pollinator seeds. Local plant vendors also sold discounted pollinator plants. OKC Zoo and its community partners had information tables to provide resources and have conversations with participants.

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.

Screenshot 2024-12-12 162740.png

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

Screenshot 2024-12-12 162804.png

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

1000

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

500

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

Oklahoma City Zoo, Okies for Monarchs, Central Park Community Garden, Oklahoma Native Plant Network

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)

The garden is located at Myriad Botanical Gardens in downtown Oklahoma City. This is a free botanical garden that easy easily accessible to all residents. 301 W. Reno Ave, OKC.

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

Myriad Botanical Gardens planted and maintains this 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.

0.2

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).

60

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

Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden

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

Monarch Watch tagging and sampling for OE

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).

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

2024_okc_zoo_living_classrooms_grant_application.docx

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 include a link to the program, if possible)

OKC Zoo's Living Classrooms Grant Program--this program is based on the NWF Schoolyard Habitats Program.

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)

15

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

Mark Twain Elementary School, John Marshall High School, Hawthorne Elementary School, John Rex Charter Elementary School, Millwood Arts Academy, Putnam City North High School Redbud Farm and Christian School Special Care, Inc. Sooner Elementary School Martin Luther King Elementary Fairview Elementary Rivers & Roads Classen SAS MS Wesley Kids Montessori Preschool Roosevelt Middle School

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

NWF Monarch Mission Curriculum, Monarch Joint Venture Fact Sheets, curriculum developed by OKC Zoo

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).

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7282

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

OKC Zoo, Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative, Myriad Botanical Gardens, Master Gardeners

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.

0.1

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

All schools are required to submit a maintenance plan as part of the grant program

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.

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

seedbombs-600x400.jpg

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

Okies for Monarchs is an ongoing public campaign that encourages residents to plant native plants to create pollinator habitat. There is a website with information about how to plant, where to buy, how to register a garden, and has a calendar of events https://okiesformonarchs.org/. Multiple outreach events were held in OKC this year. Okies for Monarchs also communicates through social media.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Master Gardeners held continuing education classes and hosted volunteer hours at the Oklahoma City Zoo. Landscape professionals attended the Monarch Summit held in Aug 2024 and participated in a breakout session to develop strategies to increase native plants available to landscapers and provide training on how to design pollinator gardens.

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.

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

AGENDA - Monarch Summit.pdf

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

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

63

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

A Monarch Summit was held in OKC in 2024. Representatives from over 50 organizations attended to help develop the second five-year Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Plan. Some of the organizations which were represented at the summit are: Oklahoma Native Plant Network, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma County Conservation District, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, OKC Beautiful, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, NRCS, Monarch Watch, OKC Zoo, OK Science Museum, Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education, 4-H Master Gardeners.

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