OKC

Oklahoma City, OK

Mayor David Holt

Pledge Summary

Oklahoma City is the capital of Oklahoma, located in the heart of the state and the Eastern monarch butterfly's migration pathway. The city is known for its vibrant culture, rich cowboy history, and scenic outdoor spaces, including the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, Myriad Botanical Gardens, and Scissortail Park. Mayor Holt of Oklahoma City has prioritized sustainability efforts by supporting local conservation initiatives and expanding green spaces. Through community engagement, the city is working to enhance pollinator habitats and promote biodiversity, ensuring a healthier environment for future generations.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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 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

- 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.

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

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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.).

5880

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.)

2950

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.

0.4

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?

The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden continued their read for adventure program, that sends a copy of the children's book "Juniper's Butterfly Garden" about monarch butterflies to libraries across the state including the OKC metropolitan area, rural communities, and tribal libraries. As part of this program families that check out the book from their local library receive four free tickets to visit OKC Zoo. Over 150 libraries currently participate in the program. Additionally, the Oklahoma Monarch Society provided monarch educational activities to Positive Tomorrows, an OKC elementary school for children experiencing homelessness; as well as Las Hijas del Sur, a local initiative to connect OK residents with Mexican culture.

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

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.

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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?

The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, The Oklahoma Monarch Society, and the locally owned news station News 9 traveled to Mexico to visit the overwintering colonies and filmed a special that aired on Sept 10. The special focused on monarch conservation and how Oklahomans can help monarchs.

Selected Action Items

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).

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 multiple social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

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.

29

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

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Following up on the Monarch Summit held in OKC in 2024, representatives from over 50 organizations have continued to work on writing and developing the second five-year statewide Oklahoma Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Plan. Four working groups have been assembled: Lands, Rights-of-Way, Plant and Seed Production, and Urban and Municipal Lands with each group meeting multiple times over the past year and drafting objectives/strategies for the new statewide plan. Some of the organizations represented in these working groups include: 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.

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.

2025_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)

18

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, Santa Fe High School, Casady School, Heritage Hall

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

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NWF Monarch Mission Curriculum, Monarch Joint Venture Fact Sheets, and 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).

10158

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, Oklahoma State University Extension Master Gardener Program

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.

0.7

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. A subset of schools are visited every summer to evaluate gardens and provide any needed maintenance recommendations.

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

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

OKC ZOO THE XERCES SOCIETY USE STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY TO TRACK MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.pdf

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.

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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).

172

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

Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, Oklahoma Monarch Society, Myriad Botanical Gardens, The Xerces Society

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

Monarch Watch tagging during the fall migration and collecting extra health data for monarch butterflies including sampling for OE, weighing butterflies, and measuring wings. Additionally, this year the Oklahoma City Zoo and the Xerces Society, applied six radio transmitter backpacks to monarch butterflies (XOKC001-XOKC006) at OKC Zoo. These six butterflies were then tracked on the Project Monarch Science App throughout the rest of the fall migration.

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