City of Boerne

Boerne, TX

Mayor Tim Handren

Pledge Summary

The City of Boerne located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country is home to just under 20,000. The Boerne Park's and Recreation Department along with several wonderful community partners, The Cibolo Center for Conservation, and the local Boerne Chapter of The Native Plant Society, are teaming up with Mayor Tim Handren to take the Monarch Pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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 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 art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Frank Ritchie	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Frank Ritchie	2025	3/27/2025	Signatories
Mayor Frank Ritchie	2024	2/17/2024	Signatories
Mayor Frank Ritchie	2023	3/3/2023	Signatories
Mayor Tim Handren	2022	2/14/2022	Leadership Circle

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Tim Handren	2021	2/25/2021	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.).

2677

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.)

1839 youth 838 adults

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.

3

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.

Residences, demonstration gardens at Boerne Visitors Center, Veterans Park, Main Plaza; Old No. 9 Trail, Historic Herff Farm, Cibolo Nature Center

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

The Cibolo Center for Conservation has implemented Project Acorn, training teachers who work with title one, marginalized students and students of color. Each of the 40 teachers works with over 1200 youth.

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

Save a species on the brink and prepare the community for the Bird City TX application process. In addition, bring awareness of the declining native habitat for highly beneficial species such as monarchs and other 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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

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

We would like an outreach kit to use at the Cibolo Center for Conservation and City of Boerne.

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

There is high level of interest in conservation of local natural resources in large part to the world class Cibolo Nature Center that has been a steward and promoter of resource conservation and habitat projection for almost 35 years. This conservation ethic has inculcated many residents and students over these years and laid the ground work for much of what is currently underway. Conservation efforts should continue to increase with the expanding number of volunteers from the variety of local conservation/resource groups.

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.

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

ct 1.jpg

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

old9.jpg

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

nnp 2.jpg

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

The City of Boerne Parks & Recreation Department. This department is responsible for mowing at all city facilities and a majority of the road right-of-way within the city limits. The Cibolo Center for Conservation has established a tallgrass prairie over twenty years ago in City Park that is still maintained as a native prairie with patches of milkweed at several locations.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

City of Boerne parks maintenance staff went through the 400 plus acres maintained by the department and established native zones where crews have since ceased finish mowing. These larger green spaces such as City Lake Park, City Park, Northside Neighborhood Park, Northside Community Park and Old No. Trail are now mowed once per year to prevent woody plant growth, and they have been seeded with native pollinator-friendly plants, including native milkweed.

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:

April 1, 2021

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge day and Native Plant Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

COB.final.proclamation.pdf

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

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

Brighten Up Boerne.jpg

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

Northrup Park copy.jpg

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

Cibolo Center for Conservation and City of Boerne

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).

40

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

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 Boerne's Brighten Up Boerne art program is an opportunity for the community to give back to their local parks and trails through creative painting. This event offers twenty-five free primed trash bins to individuals or organizations to paint a monarch theme, “Save the Monarchs”, through acrylic paint. Once trash bins were returned, staff applied a clear coat and displayed trash bins throughout the community. The Cibolo Center for Conservation's Monarch Fest included a special Dia de los Muertos painting project had 15 participants that focused on the cultural relationship to monarchs, Mexico, Texas and all the people in between. he finished paintings were installed as a temporary art installation at the historic Herff Farm and were also shared on social media to bring further attention to the participants and their paintings.

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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

pb 1.jpg

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

30

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

City of Boerne, Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, Greater Boerne Chamber of Commerce, Boerne Convention and Visitors Bureau

When did this challenge take place?

Throughout 2021

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

.25

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe your challenge and the results.

The Pollinator Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP) visited 24 residences to advise homeowners how to create pollinator gardens or habitats on their property. Properties varied in size from small residential lots to several acres. Also visited one business (large planting area), the Boerne Chamber of Commerce (sidewalk pots), and one Home Owners Association (subdivision entrance). Advised staff at Herff Farm with their pollinator garden.

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)

Over 800 plants at several plant sales in April and Saturdays in October at Farmer's Market at Historic Herff Farm

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

1200

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

Cibolo Center for Conservation, Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist

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.

vp 1.jpg

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

mp 1.jpg

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

mb 1.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Rex at booth.jpg

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

The partnership of community organizations include the City of Boerne, Cibolo Center for Conservation, Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist, and that collectively support stewardship and education events and initiatives

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

A list of conservation, stewardship and education events/programs that positively impact monarch butterfly conservation efforts include the following: Community Science and Research Projects - Monarch Larval Monitoring Program (MLMP) 2021. Monitoring started in March thru November and volunteers monitored milkweed for a total of 53 surveys, 18 volunteers performed the monitoring for a total of 130 hours. Two persons staffed the table at the Monarch Festival to let people know about volunteer opportunities with the MLMP. Oct 23rd - Monarch Fest Nov 6th- Monarch Teacher workshop- 40 people Cibolo Field trip students during the fall of 2021- 1469 students learned about monarchs Built a pollinator garden at Boerne Middle School North that includes native milkweed and native pollinator plants. Native Plant Sale at historic Herff Farm Native Plant Workshop Series Native Plants for Birds Presentations Thirst for Nature Wildflower Walk City Nature Challenge Native Plant Volunteer Workdays “Maples for Boerne” initiative Demonstration gardens at the Herff Farm, Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne Visitor Center; Main Plaza Planters and Veterans Plaza Planters. Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP) Initiated “Monarchs on Main Street Challenge” for businesses along Boerne's Main Street to plant native plants for monarchs and pollinators in their pots or green spaces. Business owners can request assistance from PGARP and will be recognized with a garden sign.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u720:v1.14.0.49966]