City of Boerne

Boerne, TX

Mayor Tim Handren

Pledge Summary

Boerne, the county seat of Kendall County, is one of the fastest growing and desirable places to live in the nation with its historical charm, natural Hill Country beauty, vibrant parks, and award-winning community services. Located 30 miles northwest of San Antonio, seventh largest U.S. city, Boerne is positioned on the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau that is rich in both natural and cultural resources. Both the City of Boerne and Kendall County collaborate with multiple robust local conservation-focused venues, land trusts and volunteer organizations that do much to educate, promote and implement a variety of programs and activities that support native species diversity. The results of these partnerships is evident in the protection and enhancement of habitat for native plants and pollinator species of this biologically diverse ecoregion.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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
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.).

2775

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.)

1925 youth 850 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.

2.5

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

Boerne City Campus Natural Area, 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 continues to implement Project Acorn, training teachers who work with title one, marginalized students and students of color.

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

Bring awareness of declining native habitat for highly beneficial species such 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 help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Monarch Jt. Venture "Monarchs & More" middle school curriculum & Monarch life cycle cards, Milkweed, Monarchs & More field guide,

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

A high level of local interest in species habitat preservation and resource conservation should continue to help in the promotion and protection of monarch butterfly conservation. There is a heightened sense of urgency and desire to protect local resources resulting from increased development pressure in the Texas Hill Country. Both the City of Boerne and Kendall County passed bond elections in November 2022 for parks, open space, natural areas, trails and aquifer protection.

Selected Action Items

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

What was the date of your festival?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Corridor plan polinator reference.pdf

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

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

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Completed Urban Corridor Enhancement Design Guide. Pollinator plants and monarchs are mentioned throughout out the document, the attachment are a few specific pages from the design guide that outlines desired pollinator plants, monarch habitat creation and available resources.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

September 2022

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

NPSOT assisted city parks maintenance/managers with selection of appropriate seed mix including native milkweed to be used for riparian/pollinator habitat restoration and best management/maintenance practices.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

Desired to plant in early fall, however an extended drought pushed the date to mid November, we finally planted 36 lbs of seed mix on 11/11/22 when the first of multiple rain days occurred. 3 acres of natural area were seeded after invasive species were removed.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

IMG_1919.jpg

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

IMG_2111.jpg

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

3

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Continued removal of wax-leaf ligustrum from the Boerne City Campus Natural Area which encompasses 13 acres. 3 additional acres were cleared of this invasive and seeded with riparian grass and pollinator mix this year. Trees were stump cut and treated to prevent resprouting. Stumps left in place to assist with erosion control.

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

BCCNA Funding info.pdf

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

Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Boerne Hill Country Chapter Texas Master Naturalist Cibolo Center for Conservation Boerne Independent School District Maples for Boerne City of Boerne Parks & Recreation Department Boerne Parks Association

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

I would estimate a minimum of monthly engagement with the wide variety of conservation efforts by the city and community organizations. Engagement includes collaboration and implementation of volunteer habitat conservation efforts, primary focus on native plants/pollinators for plant sales, utilizing best management practices for maintenance, seeking funding sources for further development of natural areas.

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

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

Corridor plan polinator reference.pdf

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

The recently completed City of Boerne Urban Corridor Enhancement Design Guide included three working group meetings that included a collaboration with a wide diversity of professionals including; developers, builders, planners, landscape architect, landscape contractor, parks maintenance staff, real estate professionals, graphic designer, interior designer, Cibolo Nature Center staff, Native Plant Society of Texas members

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.

plant sale 1.jpg

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

plant sale 2.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

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

1150 plants for 2 plant sales in April & October, 80 different species of native plant locally raised or rescued from various locations within the City of Boerne and Kendall County.

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

250

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

Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Cibolo Center for Conservation, Cibolo Nature Center

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

visitor.center.2022.jpg

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)

Boerne Visitor Center in central downtown, 282 N. Main St. Boerne, TX 78006

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

Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists and Boerne Middle School North who has middle school students assisting with maintenance and monarch monitoring.

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.

0.02

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

monarch guide flip book.jpg

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)

Monarch Joint Venture & Monarch Hero's

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)

39

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

Boerne ISD Northside ISD in San Antonio Northeast ISD in San Antonio San Antonio ISD Alamo Heights ISDt Fort Sam Houston ISD Fox Tech

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

Training books, manuals, flipcharts

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).

1000 students and 45 educators

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

Cibolo Center for Conservation, Cibolo Nature Center

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

1.5

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

Typically once a week at early planting to weed/feed/trim and then transitioning to 2x per month

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).

40

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

Cibolo Center for Conservation, Cibolo Nature Center

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

The Monarch Larval Monitoring Project

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

riparian.seed.mix.jpg

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

BOERNE NPSOT 2022 VOLUNTEER NUMBERS.docx

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

IMG_2111.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]

IMG_1764.jpg

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

Boerne Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, First Baptist Church of Boerne

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

40

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed planted in various demonstration gardens. In addition, the City of Boerne spread a riparian recovery mix at the Boerne City Campus Natural Area that included many pollinator seeds including native milkweed over 3 acres of natural area cleared of invasive exotics (work by 80 volunteers from Boerne Baptist Church to remove invasives, see pics). Maintained wilkweed and nectar plants in 3 downtown city monarch/pollinator gardens (Boerne Visitor Center, Veterans Plaza, Main Plaza) and 1 garden at the Cibolo Nature Center.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u721:v1.14.0.49966]