City of Boerne

Boerne, TX

Mayor Frank Ritchie

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 2023

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.

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

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

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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.).

1850

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.)

1100 youth, 750 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.

.25

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.

Boerne City Campus Natural Area, local Residences

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 schools, 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. Desire to equip people with the knowledge to cause change and implement actionable practices.

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

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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 interest continues regarding conservation of local natural resources. This will continue to expand with increased awareness of the need for resource conservation and tremendous growth in the Texas Hill Country.

Selected Action Items

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.

1.jpg

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

2.jpg

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

1069 plants for 2 plant sales in April & October, 86 different species of native plant locally raised or rescued

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

225

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, Hill Country Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Cibolo Nature Center

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

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community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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, National Wildlife Federation

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)

46

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 ISD, Fort Sam ISD, Keystone Elementary, Montessori Schools of San Antonio, Crestmont Christian, Living Rock Academy, Christian Home Schools of Western San Antonio, Elenor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy, First United Methodist Preschool

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).

2100 students and 70 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.

.75

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

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

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.

milkweed 2.jpg

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

NPSOT Nov 2023 newsletter.pdf

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

1.jpg

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

Hill Country "Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas Bigtooth Maples for Boerne Cibolo Nature Center Cibolo Center for Conservation Boerne High School Boy Scouts of America Boerne ISD Middle School

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

Creation of additional monarch habitat within the Boerne City Campus Natural Area. 300 milkweed plants were planted within the natural area, adjacent to the Old No. 9 Trail. High trail pedestrian visibility at this location. New pollinator garden creation and maintenance of existing gardens. Butterfly surveys & property owner consultations, plant sales, etc.

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.

Milkweed planting 2023.pdf

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

Milkwee 5.jpg

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

4.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 City Campus Natural Area (451 N. Main)

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

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.

.04

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.

scouts 5.jpg

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

2.jpg

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

9.jpg

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

2

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.

Continue to remove ligustrum, chinaberry, bamboo and tallow trees at the Boerne City Campus Natural Area. The entire site is 13 acres and heavily covered with invasives. So far approximately 7 acres have been cleared of invasives including the area recently cleared for milkweed plantings. The work has been done by City staff, Boerne Chapter NPSOT, Hill Country Texas Master Naturalist, Boerne High School students (Senior Service Day), local Boy Scout Troup.

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