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 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.
- 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.

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

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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.).

950

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.)

220

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.

Boerne City Campus Natural Area, Residences, Historic Herff Farm, Main Plaza Park, Veterans Plaza, Boerne Visitors 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 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

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. The Texas Master Naturalist and Native Plant Society chapters manage and promote the Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP) which reaches out to residents to promote planting of natives and pollinators.

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

A continued 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

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

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

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)

771

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, Hill Country Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Cibolo Center for Conservation

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

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

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Boerne Chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, Cibolo Nature Center, HEB (local grocery chain), Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation

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

250

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed and nectar-producing plants where installed at existing garden sites and natural areas to increase planting footprint and replace either dead or missing 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.

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

PXL_20241023_165846769.jpg

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

PXL_20241106_181220680.jpg

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

City of Boerne Parks & Recreation Department, Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, Cibolo Center for Conservation, Cibolo Nature Center, Herff Farm, Maples for Boerne, Boerne Middle School North, HEB (local grocery chain) Cibolo Conservancy Land Trust, The Nest Nature School

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, and maintaining pollinator gardens throughout the city.

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

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location.

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

pic2.jpg

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

pic5.jpg

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

pic8.jpg

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

pic9.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's Center located at 282 N. Main St., Veterans Plaza at 801 S. Main St., Cibolo Nature Center at 140 City Park Rd, Herff Farm at 33 Herff Rd., Main Plaza at 100 N. Main StBoerne City Campus Natural Area at

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, Boerne Middle School North. Worked with Bill Neiman of Native American Seed on a seed giveaway. Partnered with HEB (local grocery chain) and Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation on native plant giveway?

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.

0.15

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

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and other pollinators.

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

chinaberry cut 1.jpg

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

chinaberry cut 2.jpg

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

pic1.jpg

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

10

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 invasive species; chinaberry, vitex, ligustrum, and tallow, along creek corridors, drainage areas, and other public spaces to open areas for native grasses and nectar-producing species to become reestablished. Focused this year on larger sized invasive trees that produce large seed quantities. Boerne Chapter of NPSOT provide 4 session Native Land Certification Program offered by NPSOT to Cibolo Volunteers. In addition to invasive removal, several plant rescues occurred at various locations within Kendall County.

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