City of Boerne

Boerne, TX

Mayor Frank Ritchie

Pledge Summary

Boerne, the county seat of Kendall County, is among the fastest growing and most desirable places to live in the nation, known for its historical charm, scenic Hill Country landscape, vibrant parks, and award-winning community services. With a population of approximately 22,000, Boerne is located 30 miles northwest of San Antonio, the seventh-largest city in the U.S. Positioned on the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau, the area is rich in both natural and cultural resources. The City of Boerne and Kendall County actively collaborate with various conservation-focused organizations, land trusts, and volunteer groups to educate, promote, and implement programs that support native species diversity. These partnerships have led to the protection and enhancement of habitats for native plants and pollinators, contributing to the ecological richness of this biologically diverse region.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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

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

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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.).

875

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.)

230

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.

1.5

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.

Historic Herff Farm, Main Plaza Park, Veterans Plaza, Boerne City Campus Natural Area, Boerne Visitors Center, Fair Oaks Ranch Elementary, and various 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 advance Project Acorn, providing training for teachers who work with Title I schools, marginalized students, and students of color. In addition, The Texas Master Naturalists and the Native Plant Society are collaborating to encourage families to plant pollinator gardens by offering free guidance and support.

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

To raise awareness about the loss of native habitats critical to monarchs and other beneficial 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?

Resources such as the Monarch Joint Venture's "Monarchs & More" middle school curriculum, monarch life cycles cards, and the Milkweed, Monarchs & More field guide continue to support education efforts. Additionally, the Texas Master Naturalist and Native

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Plant Society chapters manage and promote the Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP), which engages residents and encourages the planting of native and pollinator-friendly gardens.

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

Community interest in conserving local resources and protecting species habitats, especially monarch butterflies, remains strong and is expected to grow. Increased awareness, paired with the rapid development pressures in the Texas Hill Country, has created a heightened sense of urgency and a shared commitment to promoting and safeguarding these vital natural resources.

Selected Action Items

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.

Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of, Boerne Hill Country Chapter Texas Master Naturalist, Cibolo Center for Conservation, City of Boerne Parks and Recreation Department, Historic Herff Farm, and Patrick Heath Public Library.

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

Native Plant Society maintains the City of Boerne pollinator gardens, Boerne Parks and Recreation coordinates and helps remove invasive plants, installs trees that support monarchs. There is also a "Catch, Tag, and Release" program that further helps with monarch support.

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)

A total of 1,681 plants in the two events that took place this year

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

1600

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

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Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society

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?

Boerne Chapter Native Plant Society, Boerne Parks and Recreation, Hill Country Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist, Cibolo Nature Center

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

300

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed and nectar-producing plants were added to new and existing garden sites and natural areas to expand the planting footpring and replace any dead or missing vegetation

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