City of Horseshoe Bay

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith

Pledge Summary

Horseshoe Bay is a City of 7,600 in the Texas Hill Country. We have been taking a number of steps to help the monarch, including a mowing delay, promoting monarch friendly planting, public education, and hosting a community presentation on the monarch and honey bees. This presention was done with cooperation from researchers at the University of Texas at San Antonio. We have much community interest in protecting nature here, and this is reflected in our city master plan, which mandates that we act as good stewards for the environment. We have taken other actions besides the monarch pledge that are tied to the master plan. For instance, our Utilties Department is active in trying to protect and move bee hives that take up residence in our water meter boxes, and Horseshoe Bay has also been recognized as an International Dark Skies Community. We are in the early stages of building a source water protection plan for our local water supply, which is Lake LBJ, and we maintain an active water conservation program.

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.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith	2022	3/22/2022	
Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith	2021	3/1/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

500

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.)

Almost all are adults. Most of our our residents are older adults with no children.

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

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below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

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.

Community gardens, City Hall, residences.

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

We are a smaller city with little of what anyone would call marginalized communities or communities of color, although we do have residents from a number of ethnic backgrounds.

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

Our City Long Range Master Plan calls for our City to act as a good steward of the environment. We are also a Dark Skies City and we are recognized as an American Scenic City, as well.

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?

Web information about the Monarch pledge. More information about when to plant, necessary soil conditions for milkweed, and how to plant would be helpful.

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

We are locating areas to protect or build habitat, and we are promoting and supporting an effort by a private non-profit to complete a 12-acre nature park. The park will include water, flowering plants and milkweed. The park opens Dec. 12, 2021 and has been more than a year in the making. Our mayor, a former mayor and some of our City Council have donated and given other support to the park effort.

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.

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We speak regularly with representatives of our local master naturalists, master gardeners, and the native plant society about topics related to the Monarch butterfly and other pollinators. The City has also assisted in an advisory capacity in the development of a 12-acre nature park that will open Dec. 20, 2021. This park, being developed by local non-profit run by City residents, will include features that will help pollinators, including the Monarch.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

We did not accomplish this.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

We did not accomplish this.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

Citizen science.pdf

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).

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0.05

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

We encourage any interested residents to take part in Citizen Science efforts. The main way for this was an article we published int he local paper in July.

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

We supported Monarch tracking by using apps such as Journey North and Monarch Watch. The citizen science efforts were publicized through the article we mention here.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

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

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.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

The City Manager, public works staff and geographic information systems administrator.

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

We do not have an applicable ordinance, but we do have a policy of mowing overgrown properties in the spring and fall. We delay mowing on about 50 acres of vacant lots each year until late June to allow for monarch butterflies to reproduce and for the seed pods to burst.

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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.

June 15.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

This is done each year since starting the pledge to support the monarch.

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.

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

Pollinator support master plan.docx

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

Utilities and public works personnel; Utilities Director Jeff Koska, Field services supervisor Rick Williams, Utility services administrator Sheri Pollard

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.

We have butterfly-friendly plantings at our City water plant, well established demonstration gardens at City Hall, and we are moving ahead with creation of additional habitat at City Hall

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:

February 16, 2021

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

"Proclamation of the City of Horseshoe Bay Declaring the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and April 2021 as the Time for Residents to Plant Milkweed Seeds

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors monarch pledge proclamation - 2021.pdf

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

Citizen science.pdf

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

mayors monarch pledge sticker.jpg

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

We publicize our participation in the pledge through printed articles in our local paper, The Beacon, on our Website and through events and seed giveaways whenever possible. We have information about the Monarch Pledge and our City Gardens at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/629/Environmental-Resources. We also had an open house event at which we had a small display about the Monarch Pledge and gave away milkweed and nectar plant seeds. On some of our mailed communications with our residents, we apply a sticker we developed that states our participation in the monarch Pledge. The butterfly in the sticker was photographed in our City's drought tolerant plant demonstration gardens.

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.

Pollinator support master plan.docx

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

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We have developed a Pollinator Master Plan that inolves maintaining a working group including staff from all City Departments to get ideas and help marshal resources for projects. We hope this will get more staff involved and help us get more done in the future. Our drought tolerant demonstration gardens at City Hall have turned out to be butterfly and bee magnets, but we are in the process of adding more habitat nearby, and this is being done with the help of our Utilities Department Field Services personnel.

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

We often discuss the Monarch Pledge and our efforts to preserve local honey bees in staff meetings (We have a bee keeper who works in utilities adminstration, and she tries to save hives that turn up in our meter boxes). The Pollinator plan attached here was discussed in late October and has been reviewed and approved by interim City Manager, Jeff Koska, and the interim utilities Director, Rick Williams.

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)

150 seed packets

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

200

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

We often set out seeds packets for antelopes horn milkweed and nectar plants such as Maximillian sunflower, Gregg's mistflower or other plants which help the Monarch butterfly. Normally, this is in the City Hall lobby, but we did give away packets at a City open house event that took place Last spring.

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

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)

We have the Steve Hawley Drought Tolerant Plant Demonstration Gardens at City Hall (Address is #1 Community Drive). These gardens have a variety of flowering plants which attract the monarch and other butterflies, a variety of bees and hummingbirds. Information about them is available on our city website at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/404/Steve-Hawley-Drought-Tolerant=Demonstrat

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

The gardens were first proposed by Mayor Steven Jordan in 2015 and they were built with City funds and a private contractor we hired. The total cost was about $30,000. We have it maintained by our landscaping firm.

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.

0.06

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.

Mayors monarch pledge proclamation - 2021.pdf

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

Long Range Plan for Monarch Pledge report.pdf

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

Mayor Cynthia Clinesmith, City administration, and former Mayor Steve Jordan.

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.

The City has a long term master plan which stipulates that Horseshoe Bay will be a good steward of the environment. The Mayors Monarch Pledge has been recognized by our administrators and the Mayor as an integral part of that work.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Hill Country Master Gardeners

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

We met with Vicki Adcock regarding a review of plant identification and advice about about maintaining our City Gardens. These gardens attract monarchs and a variety of other butterflies and bees and hummingbirds. We are hoping to Certify them as Monarch way stations.

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

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

We supported the building of the 11-acre Horseshoe Bay Nature Park which includes monarch habitat. Then- mayor Steve Jordan helped start the efforts to build the park which evolved into a private, non-profit effort supported mostly by individual and corporate donations. Some community groups, including the local Master Naturalist organization and birding groups also took part in development efforts. City staff attended development meetings and were able to advise on certain points, including asking that the Monarch be considered in its construction. Nectar plants and milkweed have been included on the property. One City staff member from our development services office, for instance, advised them to hire a landscape architect to do a proper design for the project. They took the advice and used a professional architect to come up with a design for the entire park including a 1/2-mile trail, a parking lot, bird houses, water fountain and other features. A city utilities staff member is working with the park to develop bee hives as part of our work to support pollinators in Horseshoe Bay, as well.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

Horseshoe Bay Nature Park.pdf

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

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HSB Nature Park Inc., Hill Country Master Naturalists, the Hill Country Native Plant Society, and local birding groups and the City of Horseshoe Bay.

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

This private land became available two years ago, and some of our residents, including our Mayor at the Time, Steve Jordan, began seeking ways to develop it into a park that would showcase native plants and animals of the Texas Hill Country. The mayor appointed a board to carry out the park development. Donations to build it came mostly from individuals and local businesses. The Hill Country Master Naturalists group and local birding groups were a major help in helping decide what to place in the park. The City donated the construction of a water connection for free and will supply water at no charge. to the park, which will be open to the public after its grand opening on Dec. 20, 2021.

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