

## Action Item Selections

Each year, you must commit to at least 3 Action Items from this list which you will report on at the end of the year. At least 1 action must be taken from the “Program & Demonstration Gardens” section.

### Communications and Convening

- Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species’ need for habitat.

*Example Activities:*

1. *Issue a Monarch Day Pledge*
2. *Incorporate monarchs into your Earth Day, Pollinator Week or other proclamation*

- 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.

*Example Activities:*

1. *Develop community gardens with local gardening leaders*
2. *Host programming and other activities with Nature Centers*
3. *Coordinate and collaborate with local gardening groups at schools, colleges, and universities*

- 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.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.



*Example Activities:*

1. *Conduct outreach and support habitat / green space improvements in underserved communities.*
2. *Develop brochures in different languages*

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- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

*Example Activities:*

1. *Host photo contests*
2. *Commission murals*
3. *Create and show films and documentaries*
4. *Support public art installations*
5. *Collaborate with local artists, including school, college, and university art departments to create community-wide art*

## **Program and Demonstration Gardens**

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- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

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- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants in medians and public rights-of-way.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, afterschool 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 Eco-Schools USA Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

*Example Activities:*

1. [Eco-Schools USA Schoolyard Habitats](#)
2. [PK-12 Monarch Mission Curriculum](#) (English and Spanish)
3. [National Wildlife Federation Campus Pollinator Pledge](#)



- 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).

*Example Activities:*

1. Join the [Community Wildlife Habitat](#)

- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

*Example Activities:*

1. Host photo challenges
2. Create property certification challenges
3. Collaborate with schools, universities, and colleges to host joint awareness and habitat creation challenges

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

*Example Activities:*

1. Community Science Opportunities ([Monarch Joint Venture](#))
2. NWF's Monarch Stewards Program Certification
3. Engage with local colleges and universities science departments to host community-wide opportunities
4. Monarch Migration Tracking ([Journey North](#))

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

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

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

*Example Activities:*

1. [Neighborhood Garden Signs \(Victory Garden of Tomorrow\)](#)
2. Create plant labels or interpretive language for community gardens, parks, prairie habitat, rights-of-way, etc.

## Systems Change

Please select the actions that you will begin to work on this year, are in progress, or have already been completed.

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Direct city property managers to consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties where possible.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Change ordinances so herbicides, insecticides, or other chemicals used in the community are not harmful to pollinators.

### *Example Activities:*

1. *Work with local school districts to eliminate or minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides on school properties*
  2. *Adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices*
- Adopt ordinances that support reducing light pollution.
  - California Specific: Pass a resolution to protect over-wintering monarch butterfly habitat on public or private lands.