



June 19, 2019

Mayor Jeff Williams and City Council
Office of Mayor and Council – 3rd floor City Hall
City of Arlington, Texas
101 W. Abram St.
Arlington, TX 76010

RE: Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge – Champion Status

Mayor Williams and Members of the Arlington City Council:

As you are aware, the monarch butterfly population has declined by 90% since the 1990's. While many factors threaten the monarch's survival and vitality, the loss of habitat, specifically the loss of milkweed plants throughout the monarch's breeding grounds, is a leading catalyst in the butterfly's population decline. We, the members of the Citizen's Environmental Committee (CEC), recognize the current efforts City of Arlington leadership and staff have undertaken to restore and enhance habitat for monarchs and other pollinators as well as the City's critical role in monarch protection and recovery efforts by participating in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge.

Initially, the City of Arlington joined hundreds of other cities across the United States in support of the monarch butterfly by having pledged to complete eight of the 24 actions items outlined by NWF as a way to promote conservation and restoration of monarch populations. However, in 2018, the City committed to take their efforts further by pledging to complete all 24 action items to become an NWF Monarch Champion City. According to Wendy Pappas, Parks and Recreation Department's, Urban Forestry and Land Manager, the City has completed 23 of the 24 action items leaving only *one* action item to complete in order to achieve champion status: hosting or supporting a monarch butterfly festival.

The members of the CEC are pleased to express our enthusiastic and wholehearted support of the City's commitment to meet the twenty-four (24) goals of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Pledge. As residents of Arlington and as your environmental advisory council, we welcome Arlington's efforts to create and restore habitat and educate citizens about the benefits and importance of monarch butterflies. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge solidifies the City's dedication in maintaining and restoring habitat for the monarch butterfly while also encouraging its citizens to do the same.

The monarch butterfly is our beloved state insect and one of North America's most well-known and cherished pollinators. Because of efforts like those by City of Arlington staff to protect this species and restore critical milkweed habitat, the spectacular migration of the monarch butterfly will continue to be an experience for future generations to enjoy. The CEC looks forward to the City's important contribution to saving the monarch butterfly and the potential for other cities in the North Texas region to see Arlington as an example. The CEC appreciates the City's commitment and strongly supports the City's endeavor to reach Champion Status.

Sincerely,

Julie Hunt, Chair

Citizen's Environmental Committee