

Informal Report to Mayor and Council



Update on the City of Arlington's Pollinator Activities: Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Challenge
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City Council Meeting Date: 09/24/19

ISSUE

The City Council has requested an update on the Citizen's Environmental Committee's (CEC) and City staff's pollinator efforts. Staff has specifically focused on enhancing butterfly populations in Arlington through the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Challenge through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) with support from the CEC.

DISCUSSION

Currently, the City of Arlington is pursuing Champion Status through the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF), Mayor's Monarch Challenge program. To reach Champion Status, NWF requires cities meet twenty-four (24) goals. The City of Arlington has currently met twenty-three (23) of the twenty-four (24) goals. The final requirement is to support or host a Monarch Butterfly Festival. With support from City Staff, the Friends of the Southwest Nature Preserve and Tarrant County College, The River Legacy Science Center has volunteered to spearhead the planning and implementation of the Monarch Butterfly Festival as part of their BEST Fall Festival to take place on October 12 and 13, 2019, at River Legacy Park. The NWF has approved the collaboration between these entities to celebrate the monarch butterfly.

By incorporating monarch butterfly activities into the BEST Fall Festival, the City of Arlington satisfies all NWF Mayor's Monarch Challenge criteria making the city to be eligible to receive designation as a Champion City.

The Citizen's Environmental committee supports the City's efforts in achieving Champion Monarch status and respectfully submit to Council a letter in support of these activities.

ACTION

At Council's direction, executive Staff recommends that Parks and Recreation Department, and Stormwater Management Staff, continue coordinating with external agencies to support hosting a monarch butterfly festival in the Fall to achieve champion status.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached:	CEC Letter of Support – NWF NWF Mayor's Monarch Pledge Action Items
Under separate cover:	None
Available in the City Secretary's Office:	None

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Mindy Carmichael, P.E.
Director
Public Works & Transportation
817-459-6552

Mindy.Carmichael@arlingtontx.gov

Amy Cannon, P.E.
Assistant Director/Stormwater
Public Works and Transportation
817-459-6555

Amy.Cannon@arlingtontx.gov