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South Padre Island Mayor Barry Patel takes “Mayors’ Monarch Pledge” to help save the Monarch Butterfly

South Padre Island, TX – Nov. 17, 2016 – On Oct. 22, during the “Monarch Day” festival, South Padre Island Mayor Barry Patel took the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, committing to take specific actions to help the Monarch and other pollinators. This new, national campaign will work with mayors and local government chief executives to help save the declining Monarch Butterfly.

While Monarchs are found across the United States — numbering some one billion in 1996 — their numbers have declined by approximately 90 percent in recent years, a result of numerous threats, particularly loss of habitat due to agricultural practices, development and cropland conversion. Degradation of wintering habitat in Mexico and California has also had a negative impact on the species.

“Mayors and other local government officials play a pivotal role in advancing monarch butterfly conservation in urban and suburban areas,” said [Collin O’Mara](#), president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. “By working together we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience majestic monarchs in their backyards and communities.”

Through the National Wildlife Federation’s Mayors’ Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities commit to creating habitats and educating citizens on ways they can make a difference in their very own home. Mayors who take the pledge commit to at least three of 25 specific actions to help save the Monarch Butterfly. These actions include creating a Monarch-friendly demonstration garden at city hall, converting abandoned lots to Monarch habitat, changing mowing schedules to allow milkweed to grow unimpeded and 22 other possible actions.



The City of South Padre Island has already completed three action items including:

- Issuing a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the Monarch Butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
- Hosting a native plant sale or milkweed seed giveaway event.
- Hosting a city Monarch Butterfly festival.

Learn more at [NWF.org/MayorsMonarchPledge](https://www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge) and get more updates from the National Wildlife Federation at [NWF.org/News](https://www.nwf.org/News).

South Padre Island is a 34-mile long barrier island located on the tropical tip of Texas. On the same latitude as Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the Island is known for its white, fine-sand beaches, tropical blue waters and consistently warm temperatures year-round. It's been ranked as one of the country's top beaches by publications from Men's Fitness to Conde Nast Traveler. For more information on accommodations, attractions and family-friendly activities, visit www.sopadre.com.

The [National Wildlife Federation](https://www.nwf.org) is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nwf), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nwf), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nwf).

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