

**WHEREAS**, a core principle of the *Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan* is the integration of nature into the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin residents have embraced the value of a healthy, environmentally friendly city, borne out by the National Wildlife Federation's recent recognition of Austin as the top-ranked city for wildlife in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Austin has long been a stop for the North American monarch butterfly on its legendary migratory path of thousands of miles over several generations to and from Mexico each year, with Texas serving as one of the most important spring habitat areas for the species; and

**WHEREAS**, the monarch butterfly became the State Insect of Texas by a 1995 resolution introduced by former state Rep. Arlene Wohlgemuth and adopted by the Texas Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific studies point to the rapid decline of the monarch butterfly due to the loss of milk weed habitat needed to lay their eggs and for their caterpillars to eat, resulting from development, land management practices, and chemically-aided agriculture in the United States and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, because the decimation of pollinators, including the North American monarch, which serves as an iconic species, has potential negative consequences for natural ecosystems as well as for human food production, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently studying the species to determine if it should be listed under the Endangered Species Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on a national level and in Austin, the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has undertaken efforts to reinvigorate milkweed and other nectar-producing plants to help restore monarch habitat in open spaces and suburban and urban gardens; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are encouraging communities up and down I-35 to plant native milkweed where appropriate and valuable nectar plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN, the City Manager is directed to collaborate with the local offices of the National Wildlife Federation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and initiate a process for incorporating native milkweed seed into the city's landscape portfolio at Austin City Hall, city-owned buildings and properties, as well as the city's vast preserve lands, parks, and open spaces.