City of North Mankato

North Mankato, MN

Mayor Mark Dehen

Pledge Summary

North Mankato Minnesota is a community with a population of 14,000. We currently have prairies at Benson Park and Bluff Park along with 19 other community parks, which incorporate Pollinator Gardens. Mayor Dehen of North Mankato, Minnesota has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. It is our goal to work with Local Master Gardeners and the 4H groups to help in the education to our citizens about pollinator gardens and their purpose.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Scott Carlson	2025	1/30/2025	Signatories
Mayor Scott Carlson	2024	3/7/2024	Signatories
Mayor Scott Carlson	2023	3/20/2023	Signatories
Mayor Mark Dehen	2022	2/8/2022	Signatories
Mayor Mark Dehen	2021	3/9/2021	Signatories

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Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

7500

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

1500 youth and 6000 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.10

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

In the past years we have focused on our prairies at Benson and Bluff park and Community gardens and Wheeler and Benson Park. This year we created a prairie at our City Hall.

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

At our "Let's Pollinate!" event on June 26th we had a gathering to inform and involve the residents about Monarchs and Pollinators. It was well attended and there was a diversity of families that we were able to share this information with.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

We feel it is important to do our part in the protection of Pollinators.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

We have worked with University of Minnesota, Pollinator Ambassadors, The Monarch Joint Venture and Minnesota Native Landscapes to help inform the citizens of North Mankato.

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What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We were very pleased with our Pollinate event and received some positive feedback. We hope to do it again in 2022!

Selected Action Items

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

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Wheeler Pollinator Garden.jpg

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

This is a City pollinator garden that is located at Wheeler Park located at 402 Page Avenue

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

The city worked with the North Mankato Master Gardeners and has been in the process over the last 4 years.

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.010

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.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

City Hall Let's Pollinate event.docx

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Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

City Hall Prairie.jpg

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Monarch Joint Venture

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The city cleared an area at City hall to plant Prairies. Minnesota Native Landscapes came the week before the event and seeded 2 types of prairies (Upland tall grass and Pollinator mix short grass). We had an event on June 25 that invited citizens to come and plant 300 plugs in the seeded area with the help of the University Minnesota Extension 4-H group. During that time the staff explained the purpose of the prairie and what we hoped to achieve. Monarch Joint Venture was also there to explain pollinators and conservation efforts that they are doing.

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

March 15, 2021

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Pollinator Friendly Community

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

North Mankato Proclamation - Pollinator Friendly Community 3-15.pdf

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.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

In 2015 the City of North Mankato established an advisory committee to to promote the conservation and maintenance of the city's greenways. This included ditches,outlots, holding ponds, wetlands and prairies. With the tools provided by this Greenway committee and the DNR, the committee presented the City Administrator with a directive on February

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2, 2016 as an enforcement policy for city staff and citizens to use for responsible management of greenway areas and code enforcement.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

The city works with the DNR specifically in our prairies. The DNR shares concerns and suggestions on proper maintenance that includes mowing, burning and haying of the areas.

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

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

In 2016 the City of North Mankato Park Department and citizen volunteers planted a Community Pollinator garden in Benson Park. At the same time, a citizen donated and planted milkweed seeds around the lake in Benson Park.

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

120

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The garden continues to flourish and we have a large population of milkweed around the lake and garden.

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