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 2022

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

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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.

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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 at Wheeler and Benson Park. This year we created a prairie at another greenspace at Benson Park.

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 25th 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. Now more than ever with the Monarch becoming an endangered species.

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?

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We have worked with University of Minnesota, Pollinator Ambassadors, The Monarch Joint Venture, Nicollet 4-H, DNR and Minnesota Native Landscapes to help inform the citizens of North Mankato. The local 4-H group has been very involved to help educate especially the youth.

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 2023!

Selected Action Items

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:

November 21, 2022

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

Pollinator Friendly Community

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor Proclamation.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.

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

Greenspace Management3.docx

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

In 2015 the City of North Mankato established an advisory committee 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 2, 2016 as an enforcement policy for city staff and citizens to use for responsible management of greenway areas and code enforcement.

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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 of proper maintenance that includes mowing, burning and haying of the areas

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.

PollinatorEvent_Poster_2022-01.png

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

Benson Entrance Sign 9.23.20-001200210.jpg

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

Benson Park Wetland-153200519.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate! 2022-155934801.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate! 2022-160233969.jpg

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

MVIMG_20200519_105854.jpg

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

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

Let's Pollinate! 2022-154910444.jpg

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

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Monarch Joint Venture, Nicollet County 4-H and the North Mankato Library.

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

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Monarch Joint Venture, Nicollet County 4-H, DNR and the North Mankato Library assisted the City of North Mankato host the Second annual Let's Pollinate event at Benson Park. 300 pollinator plugs were planted in an area that will become a prairie. During the event the DNR gave tours through the established prairie where he explained the plants and insects in the area.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Free Milkweed Plants.jpg

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

PollinatorEvent_Poster_2022-01.png

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

Let's Pollinate - Michele Photos-0498.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate - Michele Photos-0499.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate! 2022-144004006.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate! 2022-144049953.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

The City of North Mankato held it's Second Annual Let's Pollinate event at Benson Park and also the North Mankato Library had milkweed plants that citizens could come and dig up and plant at their home. Between 100 and 200

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Monarch Joint Venture, Nicollet County 4-H and the North Mankato Library.

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.

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0740.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0794.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0799.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0782.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0755.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - Michele Photos-0772.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)

North Mankato City Hall, 1001 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, MN. 56003

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

In 2021 North Mankato hosted a Let's Pollinate Event at City Hall. City staff cleared greenspace and planted prairies seed and then invited the public to come and help plant 300 new prairie plugs with the help of the University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Monarch Joint Venture and Nicollet County 4-H. The attached photos are of the prairie one year later.

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.

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