City of North Mankato

North Mankato, MN

Mayor Scott Carlson

Pledge Summary

North Mankato Minnesota is a community with a population of over 14,000. We currently have prairies at Benson Park, Bluff Park and a small demonstration prairie at City Hall along with 19 other community parks, which incorporate Pollinator gardens. In 2022 an area in Spring Lake Park was transitioned into a sanctuary garden. A 5-year plan is in place to make another pollinator garden. Mayor Carlson of North Mankato 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. We will also give our citizens the option of a "No Mow May" in their yard for the second year in a row.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Scott Carlson	2025	1/30/2025	Signatories

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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

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.

Spring Lake Park Sanctuary Garden

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 24 we had a gathering to inform and involve the residents about pollinators. Although it was a rainy day we had a good attendance and there was a diversity of families that we were able to share the 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

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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. 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 now have a 5 year plan for Spring Lake park that we will continue

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:

May 1, 2023

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

Pollinator-Friendly Community

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

North Mankato Pollinator Friendly Community Proclamation --2023.pdf

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

seeds and plants for citizens.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

During our 2023 "Let's Pollinate" event in Spring Lake Park, Minnesota Native Landscapes provided plugs and seeds for citizens to take.

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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 Greenspace 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.

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 in 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.

North Mankato Spring Lake Park Volunteers.jpg

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

4H craft table.jpg

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

PollinatorEvent_Poster_2023.pdf

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

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Planting 300 plugs.jpg

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

University of Minnesota Extension.jpg

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

University of Minnesotat Extension - 2.jpg

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

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, 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, Nicollet County 4-H, and the North Mankato Library assisted the City of North Mankato host the Third annual "Let's Pollinate" event at Spring Lake Park. Prior to the event the City staff seeded an area with a Rain Garden Pollinator Mix provided by Minnesota Native Landscapes and then staff and citizens planted 300 Blazing Star plugs. In 2023 the City of North Mankato was awarded an Outstanding Friend of 4H by the Nicollet County Charter

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.

Let's Pollinate flyer_resized.jpg

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

Let's Pollinate 7.1.21-1322948.jpg

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

City Hall Demonstration Prairie.jpg

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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)

Over the last 3 years the City of North Mankato has hosted a "Let's Pollinate" event. In 2021 we planted a demonstration prairie at our City Hall (1001 Belgrade Avenue). In 2022 we planted a prairie at Benson Park (2000 Carlson Drive) and in 2023 we started a pollinator garden at Spring Lake Park (641 Webster Avenue) which we will continue to approve over the next 5 years.

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

University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Ambassadors, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Nicollet County 4-H, and the North Mankato Library have helped us all three 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.

.30

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

City Hall Demonstration Prairie.jpg

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

Wheeler Pollinator Park Garden.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

We have 2 signs at City Hall which was our first Let's Pollinate event and we have a sign in our pollinator garden in Wheeler Park. Our plan is to purchase more signage as our gardens grow.

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

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

seeds and plants for citizens.jpg

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

25

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

75

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

During our 2023 "Let's Pollinate" event in Spring Lake Park, Minnesota Native Landscapes provided plugs and seeds for citizens to take.

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