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.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

8000

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.)

2000

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.

.1

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?

In 2024 the City had a Pollination Celebration with events from May - October, many of the events were well attended.

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

It is important to protect the pollinators and it is a great way to interact with our citizens.

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?

The continued support of our Master Gardeners and 4H club really benefits us.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]

We are excited to see how our Sanctuary Garden will evolve.

Selected Action Items

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 Management Copy for Surveys.docx

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

We continued with the Greenspace Management Plan that was established by an Advisory Committee in 2015 to promote conservation and maintenance of the city's greenways.

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 with the prairies and advises us on proper practices on mowing, burning and haying. The city is currently working on an update of the 2015 Park Masters plan and will be released in 2025.

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

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

Let's Pollinate 2024-3.jpg

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

Master Gardeners, 4H group and local citizens.

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

75

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

In 2022 the City designed a Sanctuary Garden that would be a work in progress project. In 2023 we planted 300 Blazing Star plants and in 2024 we planted 110 plants with 75 being

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]

nectar-producing plants.

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 6, 2024

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

Pollinator-Friendly Community

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Proclamation 5.6.24-1.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Proclamation.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.

Let's Pollinate! 2024 Poster.pdf

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

Pollination Celebration 2024 Poster_7.14.24.png

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

Pollination Celebration Gift Baskets-1.jpg

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

NMFD 7.14.24-65.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]

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

PXL_20240518_150903376.jpg

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

mso-sop-24-1-of-34_53980938999_o.jpg

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

The City of North Mankato had a pollinator summer with an event every month. May we had a plant swap during the City's local fun run. In June we had our 4th Annual "Let's Pollinate" event. In July we had a Pollinator information table at our town festival. In August we had a Movies in the Park night where we watched the Bee Movie and made bee houses and the month of September, we had a Pollinator Celebration poster contest and displayed them at our Party on the Prairie event. We worked with our Master Gardeners and the local 4H group.

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.jpg

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

City Hall Pollinator Garden - 2.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)

Flower garden at Wheeler Park at 402 Page Avenue, Prairie at Benson Park at 2000 Carlson Drive, Prairie at Bluff Park at 194 Mary Circle, Prairie at City Hall at 1001 Belgrade Avenue and Sanctuary Garden at Spring Lake Park at 641 Webster Avenue.

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

Pollinator Ambassadors of our local 4H and Local Master Gardeners

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

.3

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u488:v1.14.0.49966]