City of North Mankato

North Mankato, MN

Mayor Scott Carlson

Pledge Summary

North Mankato is a community with a population of 14,500. 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 the 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 2025

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

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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.).

55

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.)

35

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

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

By making pollinator habitat accessible to our diverse community.

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

To become better stewards of the land and create a better future for our youth.

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?

Access to more handouts to pass out at events.

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

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We are building to a better future.

Selected Action Items

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

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)

Spring Lake Park 641 Webster Avenue, North Mankato MN 56003

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

4-H, Master Gardeners, Soil and Water Agent

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.

0.25

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 5, 2025

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

Monarch Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation Signed 2025.jpg

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Proclamation Mayor 2025.jpg

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

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

Master Gardeners attended our Pollination Celebration and educated the public on native plants. The 4-H group help the public plant pollinator friendly plants in Spring Lake Park.

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.

master gardener's and 4-H group

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

The master gardener's help pick out the native nectar plants and educate the 4-H group on how to plant and the location to plant.

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?

Master gardener's and 4-H

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

97

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We held a event with the 4-H and Master Gardener's that also included the public to help plant a nectar bee friendly garden in a local park.

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