

City of Champaign

Champaign, IL

Mayor Deborah Feinen

Pledge Summary

The City of Champaign is a community in east-central Illinois, with approximately 89,000 residents. Along with our neighboring city, Urbana, it is home to the University of Illinois. Mayor Feinen is committed to preserving and expanding habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators and is a proud supporter of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Through the leadership of Mayor Feinen and the Champaign City Council, staff has direction to maintain, establish, and expand pollinator habitat on public land. The City also coordinates efforts with the Champaign Park District to support their programs for public outreach to encourage residents in the community to use and establish native plantings to support monarchs and other pollinators.

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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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 Deborah Feinen	2026	1/25/2026	
Mayor Deborah Feinen	2025	3/26/2025	Signatories
Mayor Deborah Feinen	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Mayor Deborah Feinen	2023	3/23/2023	Signatories

Mayor Deborah Feinen	2022	2/14/2022	Signatories
Mayor Deborah Feinen	2021	3/10/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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).

0.05

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

The Mayor of the City of Champaign has a sincere interest in green infrastructure and being good stewards of our environment. She has provided leadership and direction to increase and maintain pollinator habitat on City property where possible. The goal is to provide habitat, but also to provide leadership and examples for the community as a whole of simple things that can be done to increase and improve this crucial habitat.

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 are always looking for quality images or concise information that can be shared with the public via social media, email, postal mailings, etc.

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 (e.g., 50).

100

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

City of Champaign owned properties (rights-of-way, medians, detention basins)

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

The current, and future phases, of the City's water detention plans are being developed in low-income neighborhoods. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge helps provide guidance and a reminder to emphasize native plants and healthy ecosystems for more sustainable

community neighborhoods. These projects provide opportunities to bring native plants and pollinators directly into neighborhoods where they have been largely absent previously.

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

40 youth, 60 adults

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

Milkweed seed packets from Save Our Monarchs were given away to students and residents in conjunction with the City of Champaign's Arbor Day observance held in conjunction with the Champaign Park District.

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 17, 2016

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

Monarch Conservation Month Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[Monarch Butterfly Proclamation.doc](#)

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.

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

Glenn Park has shared maintenance responsibilities split by the City of Champaign and the Champaign Park District. Both organizations have turf areas that are mowed. The City of Champaign converted an area of turf to a Low Mow Zone in cooperation with the Champaign Park District. This area was mowed weekly during the growing season prior to

this installation. Tall Fescue was established this season. Prairie Clover will be added in the coming season. Once established, the area is scheduled to be mowed one time per year.

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

[Glenn Park Low Mow Zone \(1\).JPG](#)

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

[Glenn Park Low Mow Zone \(2\).JPG](#)

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

[Site One 3-30.pdf](#)

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

[Glenn Park Low Mow Area Map.pdf](#)

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

City of Champaign Champaign Park District

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)

Stampofski Park is at the intersection of E University Ave, N Walnut St, and Chester St. It is directly across the street, to the east, of the City Hall building. It is a small parcel, but the old turf and landscape plantings were removed and replaced with pollinator friendly habitat that the City can point to for simple thing residents and developers can do to encourage Monarchs and other pollinators.

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

City of Champaign, Champaign Park District

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

[Stampofski Park \(2\).JPG](#)

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

[Stampofski Park \(3\).JPG](#)

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

[Stampofski Park.JPG](#)

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.

0.02

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?

0.03 acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These sites are visited twice a year (spring and fall) to identify planting needs. There are visited weekly during the growing season for weeding, trash collection, etc. Plants are left standing until late spring as much as possible to provide habitat over winter. Plants from the previous year are typically cut back in early spring.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

Town Center Blvd median, (600-800 blocks Town Center Blvd) S Third St. Rain Garden (NW corner of S Third St and E Green St), and Stampofski Park (intersection of W University Ave and N Walnut St).

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?

800

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

How many plants were planted?

1500

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

[Ball Hort\(2\)_native plugs.pdf](#)

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

[Ball Hort_native plugs.pdf](#)

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

[Monarch_whorled milkweed.JPG](#)

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

[Green St & 3rd St_rain garden.JPG](#)

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

[Green St_perennial beds \(2\).JPG](#)

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

[Green St_perennial beds.JPG](#)

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

[Country Arbors 6-1.pdf](#)

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

[Country Arbors 6-3.pdf](#)

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

[Country Arbors 7-20.pdf](#)

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

[Country Arbors 7-20.pdf](#)

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

[Monarch cat_swamp milkweed.jpg](#)

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

[Monarch_swamp milkweed.JPG](#)

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

[Monarch_whorled milkweed flower.JPG](#)

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

[Pollinator garden_2nd St.jpg](#)

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

[Possibility Place 5-6.pdf](#)

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

[Possibility Place 5-11.pdf](#)

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

[Possibility Place 6-8.pdf](#)

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

[Possibility Place 7-15.pdf](#)

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Native plants were maintained, and additional plants were added, to plantings at the Champaign Police Department, the Second St Detention Basin, and along eight blocks of E Green St. Green St is a high use thoroughfare that connect the cities Champaign and Urbana through the heart of the University of Illinois campus.

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

Champaign Park District, Champaign Police Department