

# City of Champaign

Champaign, IL

Mayor Deborah Feinen

## Pledge Summary

The City of Champaign, in east central Illinois, has a population of approximately 90,000 people. Along with our neighboring City of Urbana, Champaign is the home of the University of Illinois. Mayor Deborah Feinen and the Champaign City Council have provided clear direction and leadership to City staff that our green infrastructure is a community priority. Mayor Feinen spearheaded this effort by issuing the City's first Monarch Conservation Month Proclamation in 2016.

## 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 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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

### Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

## 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 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).**

300

**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.)**

100 youth and 200 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).**

0.2

**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.**

This year the habitat created was in several roadway island medians and in right-of-way planting beds downtown.

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

Community events and focus groups were held to obtain resident's feedback on the future construction and plans for Hedge Park.

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

Managing and expanding the City's green infrastructure, where possible, is a focal point of our Mayor's and the City Council.

**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?**

Literature and planting diagrams for distribution detailing pollinator gardens and the maintenance cost savings provided over time versus planting annuals.

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

Milkweed seed packets from were given away to residents in conjunction with the City of Champaign's Earth Day observance.

## **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 Butterfly Proclamation

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

[Monarch Butterfly 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.**

[2nd St Basin north.JPG](#)

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

[2nd St Basin south.jpg](#)

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

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

Both the City of Champaign and the Champaign Park District have implemented, and continue to maintain, some "No Mow" or "Low Mow" areas at various park and City properties. The Park District has been engaged in this practice for a longer period of time. City of Champaign staff networked with Park District staff to learn some of the successes and failures along the way to best identify viable areas for the City to implement similar maintenance.

**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.**

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

**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.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)**

Stampofski Park at 16 E University Ave in downtown Champaign, just east of the City Hall Building.

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

City of Champaign and Champaign Park District

**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.**

0.03

## **Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.**

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

[Preservation Pond sign.pdf](#)

**How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located?**

1

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

The sign at Preservation Pond provides information on the location's role in stormwater management, native plant habitat, and the benefits the native plantings provide to pollinators including Monarch butterflies.

## **Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).**

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

[Chapter 35\\_\\_VEGETATION.docx](#)

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

City Council and City of Champaign Public Works

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

5/17/1994

## **Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.**

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

[Chapter\\_35\\_VEGETATION.docx](#)

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

City Council and City of Champaign Public Works

**What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.**

complete

**If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.**

5/17/1994

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

**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.**

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[IMG\\_7946.JPG](#)

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

[IMG\\_7940.JPG](#)

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

There are several island medians filled with native plants and milkweeds on Town Center Blvd, between Neil St and Prospect Ave. There are two island medians on Clayton Blvd, one south of Bradley Ave near an entrance to Parkland Community College and the other is east of Duncan Rd. Rain gardens with native plants exist on Third St north of Green St, New St south of John St, and Willis Ave between Green St and John St. There are pollinator gardens in the right-of-way at the Second St Detention Basin along Second St, Clark St, and University Ave. In-ground planting beds on Green St from Neil St to Fourth St also contain pollinator-friendly plantings.

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

2500

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

Approximately 0.5 acres

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

One full-time and four seasonal positions are responsible for the maintenance of landscaped areas under Public Works Operations. The newly planted areas were weeded and litter was removed weekly. Weeding was predominantly done mechanically. New plantings were watered daily for the first two weeks after installation, absent rainfall. Following that watering was done every other day for two more weeks. For the duration of the growing season the new plants were watered twice a week until the first frost. The new plantings received one fertilizer application and one liquid biochar application during the growing season. No insecticides were used in or around the area.