

# City of Champaign

Champaign, IL

Mayor Deborah Feinen

## Pledge Summary

The City of Champaign is a community of over 90,000 residents in east-central Illinois. Along with the neighboring City of Urbana, it is home to the University of Illinois. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge began in Champaign in 2016. Mayor Deb Feinen signed a Proclamation declaring May as Monarch Conservation Month in the City of Champaign. Mayor Feinen and the Champaign City Council enacted Council goals that encourage and emphasize native habitat and green infrastructure.

## 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.

### 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).

## 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.)**

75

**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).**

0.1

**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.

**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

**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).**

One educational sign is located at the Preservation Pond detention pond. The sign describes and explains the native perennial planting that surrounds the detention pond. There is a list and pictures of the native plants in use and information about the benefits they provide.

**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](#)

**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.

[IMG\\_9079.jpg](#)

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

[IMG\\_9080.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 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

**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.

[IMG\\_0682.jpg](#)

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

[IMG\\_1388.jpg](#)

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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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.

[IMG\\_9838.jpg](#)

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

[IMG\\_9845.jpg](#)

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

Medians along Town Center Blvd between Neil St and Prospect Ave. Medians on Clayton Blvd at the intersections with Bradley Ave and at Duncan Rd. Rights-of-ways on Green St from Neil St to 4th St, at the intersection of John St and New

St, John St and Willis Ave, and Stampofski Park.

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

625

**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 1 acre across multiple locations

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

After planting watering was done almost daily for two weeks, then every other day for two more weeks, and then 1-2 times a week for the duration of the growing season absent adequate rainfall. Most of the areas were mulched using mulch produced by Forestry staff from tree pruning and removals in town. The plantings were fertilized twice during the year using a liquid fertilizer and an application of liquid biochar.

**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.**

[Sec. 35 18. Responsibility for maintenance of trees shrubs alternative vegetation and vegetation Parkway.docx](#)

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

[Sec. 35 19. Same Private property.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.**

Adopted September 21, 1982. Milkweed is no longer listed as vegetation as prohibited vegetation in the right-of-way or on private property.