

# 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. Landscaped areas maintained by the City of Champaign are being installed, or converted, to pollinator friendly perennial plants whenever the opportunity arises. These plantings can provide a model for other residential and commercial properties looking for ways to incorporate these vital plants.

## 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.

### 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).**

50

**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.)**

12

**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).**

**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.**

Rights-of-way, landscape beds in public spaces, and medians

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

There is a new detention basin being constructed in a low-income part of town that will incorporate some plants for pollinators, although construction is not complete yet.

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

Mayor Deb Feinen has been advocating for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge since 2016. More resilient landscapes and native plants have been emphasized by the Mayor and City Council to be incorporated where possible.

**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?**

Resources on the website

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

None

## 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](#)

**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 for Preservation Pond describes the stormwater benefits, lists the native plants and trees used, and their benefits to pollinators.

**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?

None

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.

The City ordinance containing plants that must be controlled was amended in 2001. Milkweed is not listed as a plant that must be controlled.

**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](#)

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

[Stampofski Park \(2\).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)

16 E University Ave, just east of City Hall.

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

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.

[stoneleaf 9-22.pdf](#)

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

[country arbors 8-8.pdf](#)

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

[stoneleaf 7-23.pdf](#)

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

[stoneleaf 8-27.pdf](#)

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

[stoneleaf 8-27 \(2\).pdf](#)

**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\\_9845.jpg](#)

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

[IMG\\_1391.jpg](#)

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

202 S Neil St (right-of-way) 301 S 2nd St (right-of-way) 207 Locust St (right-of-way) 400 Town Center Blvd (median)

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

1200

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

1.07 acres

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

Typically these areas get watered 2-3 times a week for the first month after planting, then 1-2 times a week for the remainder of the growing season. The areas are checked for litter and weeds weekly. Then cut down or mowed off in late winter/early spring.