City and County of Denver

Denver, CO

Mayor of Denver Colorado Michael Hancock

Pledge Summary

Since 2016, Denver's Mayor, B. Michael Hancock, has taken the pledge and made the commitments to using sustainable practices that help the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. "Denver is committed to establishing and restoring habitat for the monarch butterfly and we encourage our residents to do the same," said Mayor Michael Hancock. "By doing this, we are creating sustainable practices that will support the increase of native pollinating insects in our city, which is important to the health and beauty of Denver."

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- 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.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Denver Mayor Michael Johnston	2025	2/20/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor of Denver Colorado Mike Johnston	2024	3/1/2024	Signatories
Mayor of Denver Colorado Michael Hancock	2023	1/11/2023	Signatories
Mayor of Denver Colorado Michael Hancock	2022	3/14/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michael Hancock	2021	3/12/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

500

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.)

We reach out to a variety of ages and don't keep track of adults vs youth.

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.

38

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.

Denver Public Schools

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

In partnership with the Salazar Center, DPR and these citizen scientists are working together to better incorporate social equity into these kinds of restoration efforts (i.e., creating pollinator gardens and wildlife habitats) and engaging the community.

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

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* The goals of this program are complimentary to Denver Parks (DPR's) goals for creating, enhancing, and restoring natural spaces that are more resilient and sustainable - and also part of DPR's Game Plan.

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?

Additional staff, employee training and access to resources, and leadership support.

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

As we develop and learn more about the importance of monarch butterfly conservation, we are able to spend more time on projects that are beneficial.

Selected Action Items

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.

As a Park agency, we are committed to using resilient and sustainable maintenance practices, which includes mowing guidelines, and incorporating monarch butterfly food sources in the many pollinator gardens that DPR designs, as well as increase in the production/propogation of native plants.

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

The engagement is internal (within our agency) - and providing the resources for maintenance staff to follow guidelines that support pollinator efforts.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

DPR partners with local gardeners on plant resources, such as the Denver Botanic Gardens for staff training on plant ID and growing practices. The city utilizes local gardeners for their native plant resources.

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Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Throughout the year, city agencies reach out to these groups and organizations for pollinator conservation effort resources.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

500

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

300

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Colorado State University Extension/Plant Dept; Gardners of Denver. Purge Your Spurge Event where we gave away native plants in exchange for their weeds (myrtle spurge).

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_3290.JPG

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

DPR planted over 40 flower beds, which had a pollinator element to each of them - using native vegetation and milweed was one of the main plants used.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1000

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

30

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These flower beds are maintained until the growing season has expired.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

NewlyCertifiedPressReleaseOct2022.docx

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

Denver Public Schools, Denver Botanic Gardens.

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Community Wildlife Habitat/NWF

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

22-0458_Proclamation_BirdMigration.pdf

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

Denver Audubon

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.

April 25, 2022

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If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Denver City Council passed an ordinance in April 2022 to designate the month of April as "Lights Out" for bird migration.

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

ResiliencyPollinatorGarden.docx

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

https://source.colostate.edu/salazar-center-denver-parks-and-recreation-fund-climate-research-by-csu-team/ Communication is done through outreach in the various communities to engage them in planting projects. The research team will engage community scientists and DPR's robust network of youth volunteers to collect data on the pollinators, residents' values toward various plants and other factors relevant to Denver's network of parks. Reaching the Denver communities will be an ongoing process through various planting and restoration projects, and will continue in 2023.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

DPR_329220_Native_SeedingPolicy.doc

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

Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

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

Complete

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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.

Aug 13, 2022

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

20

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Denver Parks works closely with Dept of Agriculture on weed management efforts within City and County of Denver. Colorado is mandated by the state to manage invasive weeds.

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