City and County of Denver

Denver, CO

Mayor of Denver Colorado Michael Hancock

Pledge Summary

The City and County of Denver is the "Mile High" city surrounded by plains and mountains, with a population size of 700,000 and increasing. The Mayor of Denver is committed to wildlife conservation efforts and encourages every city mayor nationwide, to participate in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

200

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.

5

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 School gardens, public park spaces

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

Environmental education programming in marginalized communities

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

To increase an awareness about the importance of pollinators and habitat conservation and beautify public spaces

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?

We continue to learn more about pollinators and habitats through collaboration with other conservation groups, and share resources that help us improve our conservation efforts

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Selected Action Items

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.

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

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

A few park community volunteer groups participated in the creation of park flower gardens, joined with DPR's Horticulturists and Greenhouse staff.

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

These volunteer groups collaborate with, and engage with the public and DPR staff about flower and native plant gardens, share their ideas, and implement their ideas into pollinator gardens. Denver Park staff created over 30 flower and native plant gardens parkwide in 2023.

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)

This year's annual plant sale and giveaway - Purge Your Spurge event in May 2023 - was a success. Bags of myrtle spurge were brought in, in exchange for native plants from DPR's Greenhouse. Approx 50-100 plants were given away.

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

200

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.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the

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community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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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What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Afterschool programs and kids school programs are new to DPR education programming. Offered several education programs related to native plants/seeds and pollinators.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

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Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Spratte Platte Summer Camp, and Denver Public School afterschool programs.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

Environmental education knowledge, program curriculum upon request, park spaces for outdoor learning.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

300 students and 8 educators

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

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Denver Public School staff

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How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

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What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

Annual followup will be important for maintaining planted habitats.

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