City and County of Denver

Denver, CO

Mayor of Denver Colorado Mike Johnston

Pledge Summary

Denver is a city of approximately 1 million people in Colorado. The city of Denver is certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat city by the National Wildlife Federation, and is an Urban Bird Treaty City designated by US Fish and Wildlife Service. Denver Mayor recognizes the importance of wildlife habitat in large cities like Denver, and is committed to the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly initiative through conservation efforts and actions.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

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

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

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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.).

1000

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.)

0

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, Denver residents, This includes riparian corridors, such as Sand Creek, Cherry Creek, and Bear Creek, where noxious weed management took place, and was followed up with native plant seeding and plantings of woody species.

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

By creating pollinator gardens in marginalized parks/communities and engaging volunteers from that community to participate.

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

To be a part of pollinator conservation efforts to save bees, increase bee habitats that are resilient, sustainable and low-water maintenance.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Additional staff, employee training and access to resources. Funding.

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

We've engaged in bee conservation efforts by increasing our research. Worked with Colorado State University on a parkwide Bee study. (report attached). Hosted a pollinator flower tour where Park Horticulturists created pollinator gardens.

Selected Action Items

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

We've engaged in bee conservation efforts by increasing our research. (1) Worked with Colorado State University on a parkwide Bee study. (report attached). (2) Hosted a pollinator Flower Tour where Park Horticulturists created pollinator gardens. (3) Citizen Science projects that entailed bee surveys and vegetation surveys. (4)

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)

Hosted our Annual "Purge Your Spurge" event where we give away 100's of native plants to residents in exchange for their spurge weeds.

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

500

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

Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado State University Ext.

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).

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)

Participate in the NWF's Community Wildlife Habitat program, working closely with Denver Public Schools on creating and maintaining wildlife habitat gardens.

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)

38

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

1. Denver Center for International Studies; 2. Bromwell School; 3. Fairmont School; 4. Maxwell Elementary School; 5. Park Hill Elementary; 6. Wyatt Academy; 7. Brown School; 8. Fairview Elementary; 9. Fred N. Thomas Career Education Center Early College; 10. Place Bridge Academy; 11. Bryant Webster; 12. Denver Language School Whiteman; 13. Greenlee Elementary; 14. Kunsmiller Creatve Arts Academy; 15. Steck Elementary; 16.Denver Language School at Gilpin; 17. Cheltenham School; 18. Goldrick Elementary; 19. Johnson Elementary; 20. Samuels Elementary School; 21. Academia Sandoval School; 22. Doull School; 23. George Washington Highschool; 24. Lowry Elementary School; 25. Denver Green School; 26. DU Bridge; 27. Bradley International School; 28. McMeen Elementary School; 29. Steele Elementary School; 30. Barrett Elementary; 31. Edison School; 32. Valdez Elementary; 33. Morey Middle School; 34. Whittier Elementary; 35. Sabin School; 36. Ellis North School; 37. Palmer Elementary; 38. Denver Center for 21st Century Learning

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

Staff knowledge and expertise, educational opportunities re: how to create habitats, and free native plants.

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).

200 students, and 5 educators.

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

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

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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.

5

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

Spring through Summer

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

Volunteers and staff.

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1366

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Increased the propogation of native plants in our Greenhouse - Milkweed plants we grew in 2024: Asclepias incarnata - 182 Asclepias tuberosa - 1184

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

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

DPR administers the Lights Out Denver program, since 2018. Partners are: Denver Audubon, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Alliance Rehabilitator, Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitator, and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies.

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

Complete for 2024

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.

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November 1, 2024

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

On going program - monitor birds in dowtown Denver during the Spring and Fall migration.

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