City of Waukesha

Waukesha, WI

Mayor Shawn Reilly

Pledge Summary

Waukesha is a community of approximately 72,000 people in southeast Wisconsin. Our community has the wonderful resource of the Fox River that flows from the north to the south dividing the city and providing green space, park and recreational opportunities along the way. Pollinators and the Monarch Butterfly uses the habitat along the river to breed and efforts to preserve this are taken so that this can continue. The City also has a Butterfly Community Garden that is at the Environmental Education Center (a cooperative program between the School District of Waukesha and the city) that is maintained by volunteers. This garden along with a natural prairie at Rivers Crossing helps to encourage pollinators in the City.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Shawn Reilly	2026	2/3/2026	
Mayor Shawn Reilly	2025	4/4/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Shawn Reilly	2024	2/20/2024	Signatories
Mayor Shawn Reilly	2023	3/14/2023	Signatories
Mayor Shawn Reilly	2022	5/7/2022	Signatories
Mayor Shawn Reilly	2021	3/15/2021	

Action Items

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.

2

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

Continued restoration of natural habitat. Taking action to preserve pollinators and Monarch butterfly for future generations.

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?

Pollinator Blitz from NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association)

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.).

100

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.

City parkland or properties maintained by Parks, Recreation & Forestry.

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

The Community Garden at EB Shurts is open to all and located in the central city so it is easily accessible. School students are exposed to the garden, river and tree arboretum as

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well as renters of the rooms inside the center.

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.)

75 Youth, 25 Adults

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

We will be looking forward to 2024, when we make an additional plea for help with our Community Butterfly Garden at EB Shurts by having the community plant pollinator friendly items from their home gardens at EB Shurts.

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:

March 21, 2023

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Monarch Butterfly Month Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Signed Proclamation - Monarch Butterfly Month 2023.pdf

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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)

The Community Butterfly Garden is located at our EB Shurts Environmental Center located at 810 W. College Ave. The garden is viewed and used as part of the educational process for students as well as individuals visiting the center.

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

Various school classes.

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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.1

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

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

In progress

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

N/A

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

As a Parks and Forestry Department, we are cognizant of the need to continue to use native trees such as Bur Oaks, Swamp White Oaks and Basswood trees, etc. Plants such as cone flowers, milkweed, joe pie weed, asters (native) are used in our perennial gardens, medians, etc. A meeting with the Community Development Department is pending to discuss Landscaping Ordinance changes.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

This year a Formal Garden Tour was offered as part of our Summer programming. Residents were able to sign up as part of the registration process. A presentation on Department initiatives was also completed in the early spring to various businesses at the Mayor' Breakfast. Our community garden groups volunteered and help plant native plants in the Formal Gardens. We not only urged them to plant, but had them helping us plant native plants.

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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.

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

The Fox River milkweed plants were allowed to flourish providing a safe spot for the Monarch caterpillars to feed and go through their maturation process. The river edge is mowed once per year, but that is delayed because of the milkweed plants that thrive adjacent to the river. There are two other parks along water that we maintain the same way for the same reasons (Heyer and Rivers Crossing Parks). We mow with the intention of not disturbing plants that are in our natural prairies and along the Fox River and other bodies of water. We continue to have areas that are not mowed because of milkweed such as the case along Owens Dr. Other areas are in both Heyer and Rivers Crossing parks where grasses along the river and ponds are not cut back until after the Monarchs have come out of the cocoon. We are not able to have controlled burns in our prairie areas, but do not cut them but once a year to control the invasives so that the native plants can grow.

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

Staff participated but we do have individuals that help with the maturation process and monitor the river's edge.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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.

Cone flowers were planted in our Formal Gardens.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The Formal Gardens are a premier location for the community. This area is highly maintained as it is a backdrop for wedding and other pictures in the area. Volunteers do help with planting, weeding and general maintenance of the site. We plant pollinator plants and perennials in the medians such as the cone flowers, asters, etc. They are not specific pollinator gardens but those plants are used to create designs in the medians.

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

Frame Formal Gardens are located at 1210 Whiterock Ave. in Waukesha. Medians on Moreland Ave. between Madison and Summit Ave. Delafield and Northview is another example.

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

200

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