City of Waukesha

Waukesha, WI

Mayor Shawn Reilly

Pledge Summary

The City of Waukesha is a community of approximately 70,000 residents. Residents are committed to protecting the Monarch Butterfly. The Mayor has supported their efforts and that of staff by endorsing the pledge for several years. The City has a Community Butterfly Garden, milkweed plantings and low mow areas to assist the Monarch. Educational sessions are also offered as part of the Arbor Day Celebration and has been incorporated into the Environmental Education Programs.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
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.

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

Protecting the environment and being a good stewart.

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?

Program and Educational Ideas would be helpful.

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.).

416

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.

Parks and community gardens

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

The Mayor's Monarch Pledge assisted a community group in securing a grant to help create a neighborhood butterfly garden. (Community Connections Small Grants Program).

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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.)

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

With staff challenges and retirements we were not able to complete as many goals as we desired.

Selected Action Items

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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

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

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

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:

April 4, 2024

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

Monarch Butterfly Month - 2024

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Monarch Butterfly Month- 2024 Proclamation.pdf

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.

We met with the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association in March 2024. They wanted to create a Butterfly Garden at Park View Park. They applied and received a small grant to fund the project. They consulted with the Parks and Forestry Operations Manager about what plants to use. The project turned out beautifully and needed no staff involvement but a load of wood chips.

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

New Butterfly Garden.jpg

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.

Milkweed grows along the Fox River at Frame Park. It gets very tall in the spring and early summer. The Community likes to view the river along the pathway which the milkweed blocks. With the spring and early summer being very important to the Monarch Butterfly population, the department has delayed cutting the flora along the river to late summer or early fall to support this important habitat and still provide a nice view of the river along the pathway.

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

Frame riverbank milkweed 2024.jpg

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

This was done at the department level. This program has been in place for multiple years.

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

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

1.5 Acres along the Fox River at Frame Park

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.

Staff worked on taking out invasives on the West side of the Fox River in Frame Park. Took the staff several weeks to complete the project. They removed Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Black Locust, Chinese Elm and dead/dying Ash Trees. This had not been done at this location for close to 10 years and was needed to open up the space. This helps to discourage homeless encampments as well as providing better habitat for wildlife and native plantings.

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

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Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

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

As part of the department's Strategic Plan, one of the Strategic Planning goals is to "Provide environmental stewardship, protection and education that encourages outdoor experiences". As part of this goal, one of the initiatives is to update the Natural Resources Management Plan addressing in part "protecting land, air and wildlife". The plan is to be updated by 2027. The updated Strategic Plan is scheduled to be approved in December by the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board.

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

In Progress

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

Butterfly Garden.jpg

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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)

Community Butterfly Garden at EB Shurts Environmental Education Center, 810 W. College Ave. This community garden was first established by the Spring City Garden Club. Recently, it has been replanted and become a community butterfly garden, where members of the community can transplant from their own garden. Continued maintenance of the garden was adopted by the Environment Education students as part of a School District of Waukesha project this year.

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

Public, Spring City, 4th Grade Waukesha students and department

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.

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