# City of Loretto

Loretto, MN

Mayor Kent Koch

## Pledge Summary

The City of Loretto is a small city, population 664, on the western edge of Hennepin County, Minnesota. Our Mayor and City Council Members have once again unanimously supported taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge for the fourth year in a row. The city is committed to improving the Monarch habitat through community education, planting and maintaining milkweed and pollinator gardens at city parks and supporting a milkweed seed giveaway.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### 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.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2026 | 1/9/2026 | |
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2025 | 1/16/2025 | Signatories |
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2024 | 12/1/2023 | Signatories |
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2023 | 1/5/2023 | Signatories |
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2022 | 12/15/2021 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Kent Koch | 2021 | 3/17/2021 | Signatories |

## 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.).**

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.)**

400 youth and 600 adults

**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.**

0.02

**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

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

The native prairie/monarch habitat area is in an area frequented by youth and adults attending organized sports events, and thus reaches a wide population from varying communities.

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

To increase native prairie/monarch habitat and to increase awareness on the importance of protecting such habitats.

**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?**

We have an active garden club that researches and brings forward ideas to increase our participation.

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

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Our city council approved placing a new sign on our "Welcome to Loretto" area at the edge of town, announcing that our city is a Mayor's Monrach Pledge city.

## Selected Action Items

### 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.**

Graphic for Welcome to Loretto sign.091521.png

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

We use our city newsletter, website, Facebook page, email blasts and minutes of our city council to educate and raise awareness of the importance of planting milkweed and other native pollinator plants. Our local garden club also hosts a booth at our annual civic event with a wealth of educational materials that are innovative and catch the attention of guests of the event. We also recently ordered a new sign to be placed on our Welcome to Loretto sign, proclaiming our city to be a Mayors' Monarch Pledge city.

### 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.**

Loretto Garden Club Public Works staff Admin staff

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

An area has been identified at our athletic field park where mowing has been ceased and the area is targeted for additional monarch habitat plantings. Two sections have been planted so far, total 2200 square feet.

### 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)**

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We packaged milkweed seeds and gave them away at our Mayors' Monarch Pledge booth at our annual civic event. I don't have any numbers on how many packets were given away this year.

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

600

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

The Loretto Garden Club

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