City of Loretto

Loretto, MN

Mayor Kent Koch

Pledge Summary

Loretto is a city on the western edge of Hennepin County, Minnesota with a population of 647. The city is known for it's small town atmosphere, close to many parks, trails and beautiful lakes. Mayor Koch, on behalf of the city council and the Loretto community, has committed to saving the Monarch butterfly by taking actions to protect pollinator habitat and raising awareness of the need to take action.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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

1800

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.)

1100 youth and 700 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

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. Maintained 2400 square feet of prairie restoration planting (including common and swamp milkweed seeds) along ballfield parking lot, as well as a butterfly garden at a children's park.

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

Our local garden club sponsors a free booth at our community festival with free kids activities that educate about the monarch and its habitat needs.

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

We are committed to the preservation and protection of the Monarch butterfly.

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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?

Educational videos that I can share with the Loretto community are helpful.

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

In addition to the city sponsored event, she presented at five other open events and gave lectures to both children (701) and adults (86) about monarchs and their habitat.

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:

10/12/21

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

Renewing Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Resolution 2021-36

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

36.Renewing Mayors' Monarch Pledge.signed.pdf

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.)

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

City newsletter articles, email blasts, Facebook posts

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

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

the Loretto Garden Club is a leader in Loretto's efforts to educate the public on the Monarch butterfly and its habitat needs.

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.

Public works and administrative staff, Loretto Garden Club

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

The city maintained its commitment to preserving the native prairie restoration plantings along the ballfield parking lot and the butterfly garden at the Highlands Park. The city provided wood mulch for the butterfly garden.

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.

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

Loretto Garden Club

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

The head of the Loretto Garden Club, Carol Hatcher, is a Master Gardener who specializes in the monarch butterfly. In addition to the city sponsored event, she presented at five other open events and gave lectures to both children (701) and adults (86) about monarchs and their habitat.

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)

About 15 milkweed seed packets.

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

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600

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

Loretto Garden Club

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?

Loretto Garden Club

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Members of the Loretto Garden Club maintain native plantings (nectar producing plants) and milkweed plants in our prairie restoration gardens and our butterfly garden.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

AdoptAPrairieSign.jpg

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

WelcomeSign.MayorsMonarchPledge.closer.jpg

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

Highland.Monarch Conservation.jpg

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

3

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Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

See photos uploaded

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)

Highlands Park, 445 Edgewood Drive, Loretto, MN 55357

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

Loretto Garden Club

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.

0.01

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