City of Loretto

Loretto, MN

Mayor Kent Koch

Pledge Summary

The City of Loretto is a small city, population 647, on the western edge of Hennepin County, Minnesota. Our Mayor and City Council Members have once again unanimously supported renewing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. 2023 will be Loretto's fifth year participating in the pledge. 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 2023

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

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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.

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?

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The head of our 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.

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.)

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 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.

Loretto Garden Club members met with city staff on occasion. 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.

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)

approximately 30 packs of native milkweed seeds given away

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

800

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

Loretto Garden Club and the Loretto Fire Department

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