City of Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids, IA

Cedar Rapids Mayor Brad Hart

Pledge Summary

Cedar Rapids is the second-largest city in Iowa and is the county seat of Linn County. The city lies on both banks of the Cedar River and has a population of approximately 126,326. Cedar Rapids is happy to take part in this pledge and is committed to participating in environmental initiatives that help with monarch and pollinator conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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 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 Tiffany O'Donnell	2026	2/25/2026	
Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell	2025	12/2/2024	Signatories
Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell	2024	4/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell	2022	4/29/2022	Signatories
Cedar Rapids Mayor Brad Hart	2021	3/25/2021	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.).

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891

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.)

This information was not collected.

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.

18

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 trails, golf courses, greenways

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

The City of Cedar Rapids is continually evaluating areas for native plantings that support pollinators in each of the quadrants throughout the city..

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

The Monarch pledge is part of an ongoing initiative in our community to support Monarch habitat through prairie and pollinator plantings.

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?

In 2021, 1,858 trees will have been planted through ReLeaf Cedar Rapids . City is developing an equitable engagement tool kit to help staff support equity in all program delivery. Staff is continually searching for grants to help with these things.

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

Not only has the City of Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities been working to plant a total of 1,000 acres of prairie over the past 5 years, the new ReLeaf Program that was established after the devastating derecho of 2020 is also working to plant trees that will also serve as pollinators. The program is putting emphasis on Iowa native species.

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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:

September 28, 2021

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

Monarch Milkweed Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Milkweed Month - Electronic Version.pdf

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.

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

Noelridge Park Planted Prairie.JPG

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

Monarch Butterfly in planted Prairie - Parks.JPG

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

Monarch Research Project City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa City of Marion, Iowa Linn County Conservation Commission

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

The Monarch Research Project ("MRP"), was established on October 9, 2015, is organized to address the plight of the endangered Monarch butterfly. MRP seeks to cultivate communities of engaged citizens to aid in Monarch repopulation and in the restoration of Pollinator Zones. The City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, along with the City of Marion, Iowa and the Linn County Conservation Commission have partnered to plant 1000 acres in this initiative. To date, Cedar Rapids has planted 248.69 acres with 18 additional acres being

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planted in 2021. The City commits to maintain the acres under this partnership for a period of five years from the date of installation with City resources and staff.

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

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

Mail-order seed giveaway, fall 2021 - final.pdf

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

Seed Giveaway Facebook Snipet.PNG

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

The Seed Giveaway was a mail-in event and not attended in person due to Covid. 365 people requested seed packets throughout the Sate of Iowa with 175 in Cedar Rapids alone.

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

0

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

Monarch Research Project, Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation, Cedar Rapids Garden Club, The Cedar Rapids Gazette (media sponsor), Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust (financial support)

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