City of Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids, IA

Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell

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 2022

Communications and Convening

- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.

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.).

4000

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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.)

Information 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.

23

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, 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?

The City's ReLeaf initiative has planted 3,861 trees to date. These planting are native trees. The parks department includes proposed pollinator prairie areas in development areas. The department has a naturalized initiated in various parkland throughout the City.

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

In addition to planting new habitat, we continue to maintain our current habitat through prairie burns.

Selected Action Items

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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.

Native Plants for Sale at Mother's Day.JPG

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

List of Native Species sold at Easter and Mother's Day Showcases 2022.docx

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

Approximately 1000 native plants between two events.

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

3714

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

Friends of Noelridge

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

City of Cedar Rapids Art Museum Native Plant Exhibit 2022.pptx

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)

Cedar Rapids Art Museum - 410 3rd Ave SE. A native landscape bed was created with 410 plants containing 21 different native species.

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

Friends of Noelridge

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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.

0.15

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

Toolkit_In progress.pdf

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

The City is working with developers to install gardens in parks. A requirement of the design toolkit is installation of pollinator areas.

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