

City of Seymour

SEYMOUR, IN

Mayor Matt Nicholson

Pledge Summary

Seymour, Indiana is located in South Central Indiana, halfway between Indianapolis and Louisville, Kentucky. The city is home to about 20,000 people and gorgeous parks and recreation areas. The area is rural and residents take advantage of the outdoors in a variety of ways. The City of Seymour Parks and Recreation Department is fostering conservation projects in all city parks and the Department of Public Works has been a beacon for recycling and conservation efforts for many years.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
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Mayor Matt Nicholson	2023	3/31/2023	
Mayor Matt Nicholson	2022	12/21/2021	Leadership Circle
Mayor Matt Nicholson	2021	3/29/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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).

0

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

Our community's motivation for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge is the desire to increase pollinator habitat and increase pollinator's food supply by planting native plants that attract pollinators because of their importance in our food chain.

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?

Online resources along with partnerships with local agencies including Girls Inc., Boys and Girls Club, the library and parks department have been most helpful thus far. More financial resources (funding) would be helpful to reach our goals. Having more people involved (human resources) and public land resources would be helpful to expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature.

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 (e.g., 50).

60

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

We are creating a pollinator garden in one of our existing public parks as well as turning a traffic island into a pollinator area. There are also plans to plant native plants for groundcover on the sides of one of our railroad overpasses to attract more pollinators and to decrease our need to mow there.

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

Through the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, we delivered pollinator programming to low-income and minority children that included crafts, games and science activities. We also are putting our pollinator garden in a park that is in a primarily low-income neighborhood.

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

20 youth and 40 adults

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

We also held a pollinator photo contest to highlight the beauty of pollinators and their food source.

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:

June 22, 2021

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[Proclamation-Pollinator week 2021.doc](#)

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.

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

We held a public program on pollinators led by a local pollinator expert where pamphlets were dispersed on types of native plants that are good for this area and what pollinators

they attract. Staff were encouraged to attend. They learned best practices for attracting pollinators and maintaining public areas with pollinator conservation a priority. They are working to create a more comprehensive mowing/spraying plan to detail all areas that are designated pollinator habitats. Currently, they post "don't cut or don't spray notices." We also hope to work with some local nurseries to begin a regular schedule of planting milkweed and other native plants.

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

[pollinator_presentation_1.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_presentation_2.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_presentation_3.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_presentation_4.png](#)

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

Our public works department, parks department, recycling department and chamber of commerce environmental committee all participated along with our city's public information specialist.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

[pollinator_photo_contest_1.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_photo_contest_2.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_plant_giveaway_1.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_plant_giveaway_2.jpg](#)

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Our community held a pollinator photo contest and received 20-25 entries. We did online voting through social media and awarded prizes to the top three photos. Photos of pollinators or pollinator plants were accepted.

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

Department of Public Works, Recycling and our public information specialist hosted the event with donated prizes from several local businesses.

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (e.g., 50).

25

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.

[pollinator_plant_giveaway_1.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_plant_giveaway_2.jpg](#)

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Teens for Change, our public library, Department of Public Works, Recycling and our city's Public Information Specialist were involved in our effort to develop and deliver Pollinator Week programming.

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

We launched our own Pollinator Week programming that included activities, lessons, games and crafts and science experiments all revolving around pollinators, their habitat and native plants. We also worked with teens to identify a location for a pollinator area and lay out plans of what to plant and how to maintain it. The group hopes to begin planting in the spring.

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

0

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

We have pamphlets and worksheets on pollinators and native plants available and are offering to deliver our programming to classrooms.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

The Teens for Change group is working with our parks and recreation department to develop a maintenance schedule for the habitat once it is planted.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

25 youth and 0 educators

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"?

7

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

We are working with after-school programs at the Boys and Girls Club and Girls Inc. along with a Teens for Change group.

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

[pollinator_programming_1.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_programming_2.jpg](#)

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

[pollinator_programming_3.jpg](#)

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

[pollinator_project.jpg](#)

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has identified and planned out a .25 acre pollinator garden in an underutilized park located in a low-income neighborhood. Working with a group of teenagers and a local pollinator expert they are deciding which native plants including milkweed to purchase and plant to attract pollinators. They hope to have the garden planted in the spring. Through a program at our public library, participants built a bee hotel to be placed in the pollinator area.

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

Parks and Recreation Department, Teens for Change, Jackson County Public Library

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

In progress