City of Fort Collins

Fort Collins, CO

Mayor Wade Troxell

Pledge Summary

The City of Fort Collins sits nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains alongside the banks of the Cache La Poudre River, and is known to host a diversity of butterflies and pollinators. The many Natural Areas and Parks in Fort Collins provide habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. In addition, the Nature in the City program encourages habitat linkages throughout the city on non-city lands. With these programs in place, Mayor Wade Troxell commits to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging the community in building more pollinator habitat throughout Fort Collins.

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.
- 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.)

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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Emily Francis	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor Jeni Arndt	2025	4/7/2025	Signatories
Mayor Jeni Arndt	2023	3/13/2023	
Mayor Jeni Arndt	2022	12/21/2021	Signatories
Mayor Wade Troxell	2021	3/29/2021	Leadership Circle

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.).

500

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.)

400 adults and 100 youth

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.

10

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.

Residences, roadsides, parks, natural areas

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

We use it as an example of our City's commitment to pollinator conservation and a call to action. We offer educational resources in English and Spanish, as well as financial incentives for marginalized communities to install native habitats.

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

We recognize the value pollinators bring to the urban ecosystem and want to ensure that they can thrive in Fort Collins as the city grows and we face the climate crisis.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

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?

We need more resources in, English and Spanish, on how to engage and train the landscaping industry to properly design, install, and maintain native habitats.

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

We met with representatives from other Cities at the end of this year to talk more about the efforts each of us are taking to help pollinators. We are planning on starting a quarterly meeting to discuss how we can better share resources and lessons learned as well all move forward in this conservation initiative.

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:

April 20th, 2021

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

Monarch and Pollinator Conservation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Proclamation Apr 21.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.)

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

HPLW-HalfPage-FINAL-3.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Each day during Pollinator Week, a different pollinator species is highlighted along with which plants the community can plant to support that species. We also sponsored a local landscaping workshop and sent a flyer to every participant encouraging them to plant for pollinators (see attached flyer).

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

200

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

The Natural Areas Department is doing a grassland restoration at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area to remove invasive smooth brome and restore native grassland species to support greater ecosystem functioning and wildlife. Herbicides were applied to kill smooth brome and mowing has been done to control the annual weeds emerging. The area will be seeded with natives multiple times.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

City Code Enforcement

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

In progress

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

Staff from several departments have been meeting to find a potential solution. We hope to decide on and develop a solution in 2022.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

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

City Planning Department and Police Services

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

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

March 26th, 2021

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

https://www.fcgov.com/developmentreview/lighting-regulations

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.

20210630_140349.jpg

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

20210630_141226.jpg

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)

The garden is located at Sugar Beet Park - 607 9th St, Fort Collins, CO 80524

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

City of Fort Collins Parks Department

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

0.33

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.

2.jpg

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

Plant Swap 2021_Natives.jpg

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

There were hundreds of plants at the plant swap in the spring and we had over 100 different species of plants at the seed swap in the fall

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

125

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

Front Range WildOnes, Colorado Native Plant Society, People and Pollinator Action Network, Rocky Mountain Audubon Society, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, League of Women Voters

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

45

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]

Colorado State University

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

We manage the Biodiversity Monitoring Project to monitor birds and butterflies across the community. More info here: https://www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity/volunteer-biodiversity-project.php

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u41:v1.14.0.49966]