City of Fort Collins

Fort Collins, CO

Mayor Jeni Arndt

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, the Mayor 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 2022

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Emily Francis	2026	3/30/2026	

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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.).

600

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.)

500 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.

3

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.

Residential yards and green spaces, Schools, Parks, and 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.

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

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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 continue to strive for further integration of native habitat and landscapes into the urban environment. It is a collective effort that will take the whole community's participation!

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).

The Natural Areas Department participated in both Native Plant Week and Pollinator Week through social media campaigns. The Nature in the City program puts out regular communications encouraging residents to plant native plants in their spaces to support wildlife.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Colorado Native Plant Society, Front Range Wild Ones, People and Pollinator Action Network, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, League of Women Voters, and Audubon Rockies.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

We regularly work with these organizations to host native/pollinator plant and seed swaps. We also regularly share best practice info and materials amongst these organizations to get more resources to the public.

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Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

13: CARE Housing, Dean Acres HOA, Foothills Village HOA, Hearthfire HOA, Kechter Crossing HOA, McClelland's Creek HOA, Northern Colorado Wildlife Center, O'Dea Elementary, Parkwood HOA, Scotch Pines HOA, Streamside HOA, Sundering HOA, and Waterglen HOA.

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

All of these groups received a grant from the Nature in the City program to enhance their spaces for wildlife and pollinators. Many converted their turfgrass in to native gardens or native turf.

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)

Over 2000 plants were given away and hundreds of packets of seeds.

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

600

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

PPAN, CoNPS, WildOnes, Audubon, LoWV, CoFC Utilities, Wolverine Farm, and WRV.

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

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)

There is a xeriscape garden at City Hall (300 Laporte Ave) and native pollinator garden at Sugar Beet Park (607 9th Street).

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

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CoFC Utilities, CoFC Parks, and CoFC Natural Areas.

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.

0.5

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 site has been seeded and initial surveys have already shown an increase in abundance and diversity of butterflies on the site.

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).

40

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

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas

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

https://www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity/volunteer-biodiversity-project.php The Biodiversity Project started in 2015 to collect long-term ecological data that supports the Nature in the

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City Strategic Plan to maintain "a connected open space network accessible to the entire community that provides a variety of experiences and functional habitat for people, plants, and wildlife." Sampling points are in public and private natural spaces including city parks, natural areas, and open spaces in residential and commercial areas. Volunteers visit sampling points and record what they observe. Bird Surveys Community scientists will conduct "point count" surveys for birds between 6:00-10:00 a.m. They will spend five minutes listening and looking for birds from a list of 15 species. Butterfly Surveys Community scientists will collect butterfly data using the "Pollard walk" method between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. They will walk along a line and use butterfly nets to capture, identify, and release butterflies from a list of 10 species.

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