# 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 supporting 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 2025

### Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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.

### 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.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- 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

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

## Past Pledge Archive

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| 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.).**

800

**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.)**

100

**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.**

2

**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 yards, public spaces including several parks and a museum.

**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. This includes funding gardens in a box to give to low-income residents and neighborhoods.

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

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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 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

### 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)**

Next to the Museum of Discovery planted during the Nature All Around Us exhibit. It is located along the Poudre River at 408 Mason Ct. in Fort Collins

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

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, Audubon of the Rockies, Fort Collins 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.**

0.04

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

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

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City Planning, City Night Sky Team, local businesses, Police Department

**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 6, 2021: Lighting code for new developments was updated to be night sky compliant. More details can be found under "Lighting Standards" on this website: https://www.fortcollins.gov/Government/City-Code-and-Charter/Building-Code/Rules-for-Common-Projects

## 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 3,000 plants given away at the spring plant swap and hundreds, if not more, seed packets were given away at the fall seed swap

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

800

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

People and Pollinators Action Network, Wild Ones, Audubon, Wildland Restoration Volunteers, Nature in the City, City Utilities Water Conservation, Colorado Native Plant Society

## 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.**

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The Fort Collins Natural Areas Department uses Integrated Pest Management practices across our system of over 55,000 acres of Natural Areas to reduce the presence of State Noxious Weeds and invasive plants that can outcompete important native plants, especially milkweed, for monarchs.

## 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.**

Nature in the City regularly partners with many (at least 6) local garden and native plant enthusiasts to host or sponsor events: Colorado Native Plant Society, Wild Ones Front Range, People and Pollinators Action Network, Gardens on Spring Creek, City's Utilities Xeric Incentive Program, Audubon of the Rockies Habitat Hero.

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

Nature in the City is one of the regular sponsors of the Gardens on Spring Creek annual workshop on landscaping in the high plains of Colorado - this past year they changed their program to an ongoing series throughout the year called "Down to Earth". Nature in the City also engaged local gardening leaders and partners at the Colorado Landscaping with Native Plants Conference where we had a table to share seeds and information about our grant program. We also continue to represent at the Colorado Pollinator Summit and engage with local garden leaders there as well.

## 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.

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

At least eight organizations across the city participated in adding pollinator gardens this year. - City Parks - Poudre River Library - Fort Collins Museum of Discovery - Audubon of the Rockies - Wildland Restoration Volunteers - Sproutin' Up - Gardens on Spring Creek - City Planning - City Transportation service Transfort

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

City Parks were great partners helping to install pollinator habitat in four parks in Fort Collins, the museum and the library. Two of these included volunteer events to plant. Wildland Restoration Volunteers worked with high school students to grow native plants and plant them at a non-profit's community garden (Sproutin' Up). City Planning and Transfort collaborated on converting irrigated turf near the downtown transit hub to native perennials and grasses. All of these projects were pollinator garden focused.

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## Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

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

Bird City Colorado - Audubon and Environment of the Rockies recognition

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

https://birdcity.org/colorado/fortcollins?tab=0

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