The City of Rochester Hills

Rochester Hills, MI

Mayor Bryan Barnett

Pledge Summary

Established in 1984, the City of Rochester Hills, in Southeast Michigan, has a population of roughly 75,000. Rochester Hills is committed to sustaining its position among the nation’s preeminent places to live, work and raise a family. The community continues to value its natural resources and green spaces. The City sees the importance of not only protecting and enhancing these resources; but acting as a leader and model to residents and the community. As part of this effort, the city is committed to taking actions to conserve and maintain pollinator habitats. Actions include supporting local native plants sales, seed collection programs, providing pollinator habitat support to HOA's and residents, and continued stewardship efforts in our City Parks and Green Spaces.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Bryan Barnett	2026	12/3/2025	
Mayor Bryan Barnett	2025	2/6/2025	Signatories

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Bryan Barnett	2024	12/22/2023	Signatories
Mayor Bryan Barnett	2023	12/14/2022	Signatories
Mayor Bryan Barnett	2022	12/13/2021	Signatories
Mayor Bryan Barnett	2021	12/11/2020	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.).

810

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.)

684 Adults and 126 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.

0.25

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.

Green Spaces and Parks

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

This Pledge continues to drive our use of partnering with local non-profits, like the Clinton River Watershed Council, to provide outreach to our entire community about pollinators and native Plants. The Gardens maintained will be visited at our Bloomer Park by our youth camps, which include sponsored kids from low income families. Additionally, our invasives program provide cost effective resources to have invasive species treated in our community.

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

The City values its natural resources, green spaces, and the wildlife that relies on them. We see the importance of not only protecting and enhancing these resources; but acting as

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

a leader and model to residents and the community. The Mayors Monarch Pledge is a great program to accompany with our Tree City USA designation. We have active Garden clubs and residents that show interest in enhancing our pollinator habitat in our community and in our neighboring communities.

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?

Webinars and have had conversations with the neighboring community that also participates to discuss actions and future plans. Regular social media content would be helpful that we could post or share.

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

Numbers provided above do not include the tens of thousands of people (kids and adults) that visit Innovation Hills, the Museum, and Bloomer Park that are exposed to the pollinator gardens in these locations. We also have held several events; like our OAK in the Hills event, which had over 1000 participants, that have components promoting pollinator efforts. We continue provide outreach on social media and in a monthly E-Newsletter regarding invasive species, national pollinators week, and general environmental stewardship. We have started conversations with local residents that have particular interest in this program and we created a resident group to help future efforts that met multiple times. in the last year.

Selected Action Items

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.

The Hills of Rochester Garden Club Rochester Hills Green Space Advisory Board Clinton River Watershed Council Rochester Garden Club Rochester Pollinators

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

City Staff met w/ these groups multiple times to begin to talk about Mayors Monarch Pledge efforts and future tasks to focus on. Volunteer opportunities and a future pollinator garden workshop were discussed. A Pollinator Garden workshop for the community is in the process of being developed for the Rochester Hills community.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

2023 Poster for MUSEUM_8.5x11 FINAL.pdf

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

IMG_8111.jpg

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

500

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

554

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

Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Rochester Garden Club, Clinton River Watershed Council

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

Seed Collection Workshop 2023.pdf

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

15

What species were collected or propagated?

over 8 different native species - including Milkweed and Ironweed

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

Clinton River Watershed Council

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

The Clinton River Watershed Council partners with us every year to host a Native Seed Collection workshop and collection day at our Avon Nature Area. Avon Nature Area is on our City Hall property and has a prairie that we established and continue to maintain annually (prescribed burns, planting, etc.) to have a high quality native prairie for pollinator species. CRWC takes lead on this program and we help support with the site and promotion.

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.

Bloomer_Garden.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)

Maintained Pollinator Garden - Innovation Hills Park (2800 W. Hamlin Rd.) , Maintained Pollinator Garden - Bloomer Park (345 John R Rd.), Maintain Children's Garden - Van Hoosen Museum (1005 Van Hoosen Rd.) - combined size of all gardens is approx. 0.3 acres

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

Rochester Garden Club, Bloomer Garden Club, Park and Museum Staff

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.

0.3

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

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

IH_PollinatorBerms.JPEG

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Forestry mowing.png

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

Avon_Nature Area.jpg

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

VolunteerGarlicMustardPull.jpg

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

22 acres

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.

Several location within our Green Spaces / Parks are maintained as Native Prairies / wet meadows with annual invasive species treatment/removals to promote native forbs and vegetation. In the past year, we also completed forestry mowing on 2 acres of areas inundated with woody invasives, such as buckthorn, to reestablish meadows that we ultimately be restored to habitat that will support pollinators, like Monarchs. Treatments beyond forestry mowing, include prescribed burns, herbicide treatments, volunteer pulls, etc. The City offers a city wide Phragmites program to residents and HOA's to encourage and assist them in removal of invasives on their private properties. We had over 25 HOA's participate this year.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

City and Park Department Staff; City Council

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]

in 2022/2023 our PNR 5-year Master Plan and our 10 year PNR strategic plan was completed. As part of these plans goals and objectives were established. Plans specifically call out enhancing city properties by removing non-native/invasives. It also includes expanding Green Space properties through land acquisition. They also include developing Citizen led programs and volunteer engagement. Staff is in progress of incorporating Monarch butterfly and pollinator conservation into these established goals/recommendations. For example; one recommendation was to develop a systematic volunteer management and engagement system. This directly correlates with our desire to build partnerships with volunteers and local garden clubs to establish and maintain monarch habitat. Staff will utilize these recommendations and goals to pursue department policies and engaging other departments on monarch related efforts. This is still a work in progress.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u53:v1.14.0.49966]