City of Elk River

Elk River, MN

Mayor John Dietz

Pledge Summary

The City of Elk River is located in Minnesota, just north of the metro. We are committed to environmental protection and supporting practices to help pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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.
- 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 John Dietz	2022	1/18/2022	
Mayor John Dietz	2021	4/9/2021	Signatories

Action Items

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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.).

50

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.)

Unsure

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.

Commercial property

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

Not at all at this time

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

Expand education and opportunity for native plants

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?

Recommended seed mix information

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

We are hoping to do more in the future

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Selected Action Items

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.

One - Great River Energy re-established a large native plant area as part of a site reconstruction project.

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

Continued to maintain mowing and planting programs

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

City owned median throughout the city, as sight-lines allow. One good example is in front of our City Hall at 13065 Orono Parkway, Elk River, MN 55330

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

10

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Unknown

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Continue to maintain these areas throughout the growing season, minimal water/weeding and cutting as needed to maintain sight-lines, some burning every few years.

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

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

More than one acre

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.

Removal of invasive species including buckthorn via mechanics and by hand, utilizing volunteers as part of park commission.

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 council and city staff

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.

Completed via Landscaping Ordinance: https://library.municode.com/mn/elk_river/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH30LADERE_ARTVIZO_DIV5SURE_SDIVSCLALIARSTSTOUDI_S30-934LA

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).

Website information for residential use, updated periodically however not widely shared with the public. Often residents are referred to the Sherburne Soil and Waste Conservation District for additional resources regarding native plantings. https://www.elkrivermn.gov/574/Trees-and-Invasive-Species

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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?

Energy City Commission

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.

https://www.elkrivermn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5496/10-Year-Action-Plan-pdf?bidId=

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

Goal is specific to native vegetation and low maintenance native landscaping for both residential and commercial areas.

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