City of Zion

Zion, IL

Mayor Billy McKinney

Pledge Summary

The City of Zion is located half way between Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI on the state's border and on the beautiful Lake Michigan. The population is approximately 25,000 and with rich diversity. Township Supervisor Cheri Neal has been dedicated to Monarch survival since 1999 when she started raising them and educating young and old at UW-Parkside, area schools and nursing homes. In 2018 she worked with Mayor Al Hill to designate the Zinnia as the Zion Flower, Most recently, Mayor Billy McKinney came on board and worked with the Township, the Zion Park District and Zion-Benton Public Library, passing a resolution making Zion, IL a Monarch City, USA. The Zion Park District had also taken major steps toward saving Monarchs with creating intentional spaces for them and preserving multiple varieties of milkweed in our Hosah Park. Both Mayor McKinney and Supervisor Neal are committed to saving Monarchs and other pollinators with signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and are dedicated to continuing the efforts with the Zion community. The first Saturday in August has been designated as Monarch Day in Zion, IL.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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Communications and Convening

- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- 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.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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 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.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Billy McKinney	2021	4/10/2021	

Action Items

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

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

We became a Monarch City USA!

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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 are just getting started on this but look forward to your partnership!

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.).

75

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.

We are working on this. Our park district has many habitats and we gave out seeds to encourage residents to create some as well.

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

We are a marginalized, low-income community of colors.

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.)

not sure

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

We are just getting started but excited to make Zion, IL a major contributor to the conservation of the monarch.

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.)

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

Screen Shot 2021-11-30 at 10.23.16 AM.png

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

Screen Shot 2021-11-30 at 10.23.07 AM.png

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

Our community magazine and social media

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.

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

This is a constant focus on the Zion Park District, to be expanded on next year.

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

We are working on launching a community garden next summer and will include this!

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Monarch Mural Complete!.png

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

A group was organized BUZ (Building Up Zion) to raise funds for this mural that was placed on the local feed store wall in our downtown.

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

The City of Zion, Zion Township, the Coalition for Healthy Communities, and local businesses

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

40

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)

We are looking to create this next year!

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

BUZ and the Zion Park District will be involved.

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.

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

Our focus was on the mural but we did work to establish relationships with the Monarch Mania event. We will continue this dialogue in 2022.

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

Park District, Univ of Ill extension, Zion Township, Zion School District, vendors including those who sell monarch items, face painter, piñata maker, dancing group, monarch raisers for the release, crafts, volunteers, the Mayor and more.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We will be focusing on this project next summer.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Please describe the educational information on the sign(s), and provide any links to externally purchased sign(s).

Although we did post Monarch City USA signs, I do not have any of that information at hand.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

This is something that will be considered for next year.

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.

23

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.

A group has been involved in this but I do not have the information to input at this point.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Our local school district, park district, township, Univ of Ill extension as well as a multitude of residents to make this event a reality.

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

Monarch Festival 1.png

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

Monarch Sign Example.png

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

Monarch Mania Poster.jpg

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

100

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Hosted on the first Saturday in August from 1-5pm at the Park District band shell, utilized the school district to reach the families, had the materials in english and spanish, awesome first try. The committee is already working on next year's event!

What was the date of your festival?

August

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

0

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

The Park District, Township and local feed store.

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

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500 seed packets were distributed to residents.

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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).

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

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

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).

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

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

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 6, 2021

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

Zion, IL a Monarch City USA

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch City Resolution_001.pdf

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