

City of Greenfield

Greenfield, WI

Mayor Michael Neitzke

Pledge Summary

Greenfield is a community in southeastern Wisconsin with a population of roughly 38,000. Greenfield has been a Tree City, USA for over 25 years and in 2020 was designated as a Bee City, USA, a Monarch City, USA and a Bird City, WI. The City of Greenfield is committed to sustainable land management practices. Mayor Michael Neitzke has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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.
- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2026	2/20/2026	
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2025	3/19/2025	Signatories
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2024	12/1/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2023	3/8/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2022	1/14/2022	Signatories
Mayor Michael Neitzke	2021	12/15/2020	Signatories

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).

14

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

Beyond any moral obligations to pollinator populations, pollinators contribute substantially to the economy. By improving habitat for pollinators we will see collateral benefits in improving ecosystems. Additionally, pollinator-friendly habitats may require less frequent watering and maintenance than traditional landscaping, which can reduce operations and maintenance expenses for the City of Greenfield.

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?

The Garden For Wildlife program was very beneficial for Greenfield's programming this year. We were able to plant hundreds of native plants and milkweed at a fraction of the price of what they would normally cost. Wider availability of such programs for municipalities and the public at large would be beneficial in creating more high-quality greenspaces.

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

This year we organized a native garden planting at a park that located between two schools. We coordinated students of various ages, including many underprivileged children, to help plant the garden in hopes of teaching children the importance of pollinators and responsible land use management.

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 (e.g., 50).

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

Parks and public green spaces.

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

400 youth, 200 adults

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

Konkel Park, the City's most popular park, underwent an extensive streambank revitalization project this year. The project included adding many acres of native plants and milkweeds in order to bolster our monarch conservation efforts.

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.)

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

[GPPC_WelcomeNewsletter Paper Version.pdf](#)

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

The City provides printed and email newsletters, encouraging residents to make pollinator-friendly changes to their yards (see attached). We also provide extensive information on our website: <https://www.ci.greenfield.wi.us/865/Pollinator-Friendly-Community>

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.

Many City departments, including engineering, parks and recreation and public works, work together to install and maintain milkweed and native plant programming. This year, 14 acres of land was restored to a native wetland habitat in Greenfield. This project would not have been possible without all of the City departments working in hand in hand to ensure success. More info here: <https://thehoneycreek.org/plan/>

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

City of Greenfield Departments: Public Works, Engineering, Parks and Rec Additional
Community Partners: WI DNR, Southeastern WI Regional Planning Commission,
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Sustain Our Great Lakes, Fund For Lake
Michigan, WI Coastal Management, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sweet Water,
American Transmission Co.

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

How many people attended your event?

200

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

The Greenfield Seed Library: <https://www.greenfieldlibrary.org/inside-the-library/seed-library.php> and the Milwaukee Zoological Society

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?

150

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

How many plants were planted?

250

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This year, the City of Greenfield ordered native plants and milkweed from various plant sales. We planted the plants at Kulwicki Park and in Konkel Park, using both paid and volunteer labor.

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

The Garden for Wildlife program and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Districts Rain Garden Plant Sale, the Greenfield Pollinator Protection Committee and Edgewood Elementary School

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?

13

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

[HoneyCreek_KonkelParkVision_Web_1920wide_96dpi.png](#)

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.

Portions of Konkel Park were overrun by invasive species such as buckthorn, narrow-leaved cattail, garlic mustard and other nuisance species. These portions of the park were excavated completely during the restoration of Honey Creek, which turned a concrete channel stream back into the wetland area it once was. These areas were then replanted with native, wetland friendly plant species.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located?

1

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

The interpretive sign is located at Greenfield's flagship pollinator habitat in Kulwicki Park. It highlights the plants and pollinators that frequent the area, provides info on the importance of pollinators and offers tips on how individuals can help with conservation.

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

[2023 Spring Habitat.jpg](#)

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

[Pollinator_InterpretiveSign_18x24.jpg](#)

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

The City of Greenfield's Engineering department authored an updated noxious weed ordinance, allowing for managed natural landscapes, including the use of milkweed.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

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

[120120 Noxious Weeds Prohibited Ordinance.doc](#)

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.

11/12/2020

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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.

11/12/2020

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

[Habitat Seeding1.jpg](#)

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

[Habitat Seeding2.jpg](#)

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

[Habitat Seeding3.jpg](#)

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

This particular native plant habitat at Kulwicki Park was made possible with partnerships including: the Greenfield Pollinator Protection Committee, American Transmission Company, Wild Birds Unlimited, Monarch Watch, the Greenfield Beautification Committee and private donations.

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.

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

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

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

[IMG-4443.jpg](#)

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

[IMG-4698.jpg](#)

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.

5/6/23

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

Old flower beds at Konkel Park were replanted with native flowers. The flowers were grown exclusively for us by a local greenhouse called Anne's Acres. The flowers were planted through a partnership with area scout troops and the Greenfield Pollinator Protection Committee.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete