City of Des Moines

Des Moines, IA

Mayor Connie Boesen

Pledge Summary

The City of Des Moines Iowa is in the heart of the Midwest and in the heart of the fall Monarch Migration flight way. The City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation along with the Blank Park Zoo, Science Center of Iowa, and Des Moines Botanical Center all work together to promote and provide support for Monarch Conservation and education in our beautiful city for the 754,000 people that call it home. Mayor Boesen has committed to conservation and sustainable practices that enhance our city as well as provide habitat for monarch butterflies, pollinators, and wildlife in our city.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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

- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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

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awareness and recognition.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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).
- 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.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Connie Boesen	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Connie Boesen	2025	4/8/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Connie Boesen	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie	2023	3/28/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie	2022	3/22/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie	2021	4/16/2021	Leadership Circle

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.

0.8

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

Our mission is Helping Des Moines live well. play hard and protect the earth. Monarch conservation is one part of our overall mission.

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 publicity that comes with the connection to the mayor helps to promote and give credit to our conservation programs and projects with the public and with council members. Any printed information that is produced be made available in multiple languages.

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.).

2411

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.

Containers, Municipal building landscaping, City Parks

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

Partnering with our public libraries, we are able to reach out to a wider audience and still present activities free of fees at different library branches across the city.

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.)

1400

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

During our 2025 public Monarch Tagging Programs we tagged and released 200 monarch butterflies using all our available tags. In the past few years, we have not been able to capture enough Monarchs to use all our tags.

Selected Action Items

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

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

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).

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.

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.

Plant.Grow.Fly.pdf

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

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Plant.Grow.Fly. (PGF) is a conservation initiative to help protect native pollinators, developed in 2014 by the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. Since its creation, over 2,000 pollinator habitats have been registered, creating an awareness that no effort is too small and everyone can do their part to save pollinators by planting pollinator friendly host and nectar plants. Plant.Grow.Fly. has printed information, Garden signs, and Online information.

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.

Our Community Gardeners are required to provide community volunteer time. One option for them is to help maintain the pollinator plot at the garden site. Native milkweed species are some of the plants in t e pollinator plot. Our Community Gardens Field Coordinator gave away native milkweed plants along with some other species to the gardeners that they could include in their personal plots. Many of them plant zinnia that are a huge draw to the migrating monarchs in the month September.

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

Community Garden LOGO.pdf

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

community garden Monarch.pdf

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.

Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Forestry have worked together to identify opportunities on public lands to plants Iowa natives and create storm retention basins that also create habitat in our city. These basins are managed as prairie and are not on the mowing schedule.

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

Cohen park basin.pdf

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

Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Forestry

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

45 AmVets Post 2 Beaverdale Neighborhood Association Capitol Park Capitol View Elementary School Chautauqua Park Neighborhood Association Drake Neighborhood Association Drake Neighborhood Association Drake Neighborhood/ 27th Cottage Grove Ave East Side Library - Accent Neighborhood Fairground neighbors for community improvement Fairmont Park Families Forward Forestdale Neighborhood Gray's Lake Neighborhood Association Hillis Elementary Hillsboro Estates Hoyt Sherman Place Jefferson Elementary King Irving 1 King Irving 2 Merle Hay Neiighborhood Association. MHNA Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Moore Elementary North of Grand Neighborhood Association North Side Library/Friends of the North Side Library Oakridge Neighborhood Oakridge Neighborhood Perkins Elementary garden club Polk Co. Master Gardners Discovery Garden Public Works Supply Yard River Band River Woods Elementary School South Side Library South Union Elementary Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Association Studebaker Elementary Valley High Manor Waterbury Neighborhood Association Waveland Waveland Golf Course Waveland Park Neighborhood Association Waveland woods Willowmere Drive neighborhood

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

Parks and Recreation department provides The Neighborhood Flower Program that is a unique partnership that allows plants to be planted exclusively on the right-of-ways, medians, street corners, and parkways (excluding religious groups) within the city limits of Des Moines free of charge. The requesting party commits to volunteering to plant, water, and maintain approved locations for the entire year. Included in the plant choices are Monarch friendly species such as Asclepias and Echinacea.

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

Neighborhood Flower Program.pdf

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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Parks and Recreation has for many years made it part of our master design plans to incorporate natives into our parks. Renovations and new designs include natives in landscape designs. The city has also incorporated native plantings into landscape designs for new municipal buildings including our new solar field and new greenhouse.

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

Map of natives.pdf

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

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

87

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

Parks and Recreation, Libraries

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

250 Giving native milkweed plants to the participants, is part of the Milkweed for Monarchs program held in the spring. On occasion there are end-of-year plants that are also given out to participants at Monarch Tagging Programs in the fall. The Plant.Grow.Fly. programs through Parks and Recreation are designed to educate participants about monarchs and at the same time they get to take home plants that support monarchs and pollinators that they plant themselves in flowerpots. Participants are then encouraged to transplant the perennials to their yards at the end of the growing season. Native seeds are given away at various Geocaching events as prizes and seed balls that contain milkweed, asters, liatris and penstemon seeds are incorporated into programs at various times of the year.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

3

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

This year Parks and Recreation worked with the summer interns and collected seeds to be shared, used in public programs, and spread to new locations. On occasion, some of the seeds will be used in the greenhouse.

What species were collected or propagated?

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Species collected include Common Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Meadow Blazing Star, Grey-headed Coneflower, Rose Mallow, Illinois Bundleflower, Smooth Penstemon, New England Aster and Stiff Goldenrod.

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

Parks and Recreation

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)

The Plant.Grow.Fly. partners established a pollinator-friendly garden at the State Capitol Complex located in Des Moines. This has been on the property for several years. This is where state laws are formed that concern all forms of conservation in Iowa. 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319

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

Blank Park Zoo, Iowa DNR, Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Trees Forever, Reiman Gardens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge, Polk County Soil and Water

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

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

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.

Roughly 38000 square feet or 0.87 Acres

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

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The Neighborhood Associations are responsible for the planting and maintenance of the areas planted. Combined there were a total of 771 participants involved donating a total of 4639 hours of labor.

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

These plantings are all over the city of Des Moines in Neighborhood Associations that have agreed to be a part of the program.

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

10620

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).

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

Bird Friendly City.pdf

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

Tree City USA.pdf

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

Des Moines Audubon, Blank Pak Zoo, Trees Forever, National Heritage Foundation, Des Moines Parks and Recreation

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

The City of Des Moines has been awarded the Arbor Day Foundation, a Tree City USA community, for 33 years and awarded the Growth Award for 26 years. Des Moines has also qualified as a Bird Friendly City since 2023 through the Bird City Network.

Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

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

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Monarch Taggin 2 .pdf

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

Monarch Tagging 1.pdf

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

Monarch Watch.pdf

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

In 2025 Des Moines Parks and Recreation continued their annual Monarch Tagging programs utilizing the citizen science program Monarch Watch tags. In the month of September there were nine tagging events where a total of 200 monarch butterflies were tagged and released back to the wild to continue their journey south for the winter. Des Moines Parks and Recreation has been hosting these tagging programs for more than 10 years.

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).

258

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

Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Des Moines Libraries

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

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

4000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The Des Moines Parks and Recreation Natives Crew planted in city parks properties natives that included various species of milkweeds and nectar producing plants.

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

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Des Moines Parks and Recreation Natives Crew

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

1

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

Gray's Lake Park is the most visited city park in Des Moines with over 1 million visitors every year. Within the park is a native flower bed that has monarch lifecycle signage. The flower bed itself was planted during a Plant.Grow.Fly. program by the participants with the help of the Parks and Recreation Natives staff. https://www.pulsedesign.com/outdoor-interpretive-sign-monarch-butterfly-migration-life-cycle-milkweed-pollinator-garden-habitat

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

Gray's Lake Life Cycle Sign.pdf

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.

The City of Des Moines continues the practices of including native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at new city building properties. Natives are used in special areas such as stormwater basins as well as for general landscapes. We have also been creating edible landscapes such as strawberries and fruit trees that provide blossoms for pollinators as well as food for people at some city properties. This is an ongoing practice.

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

City of Des Moines Managers Department, City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Iowa Food Systems Coalition, Des Moines Economic Development, Birds & Bees Urban Farm

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

In progress

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Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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.

Our Parks and Recreation Department is one of the largest land managers in the City of Des Moines with 2,672 acres of managed designed space including intentionally preserved open lawn space and 3,245 acres of natural open space with about 950 acres receiving intentional natural resources management. Years ago, all of our department's turf area received a regular regime of fertilizer and herbicide/pesticide. In more recent years, the amount of fertilizers and herbicides/pesticides have been greatly reduced and is being offset by a variety of approaches. Our staff genuinely dislikes applying landscape chemicals, so the task is always approached with discretion. All staff which apply pesticides are certified, explicitly apply to the label, and remain mindful of apiaries and other wildlife impacts. Whenever possible, tools which eliminate or greatly reduce the amount of chemical applied are used. For example, the team that maintains ornamental garden beds primarily hand pull weeds. For natural resources applications, hydraulic shears, uprooters, and weed wrenches are used where possible and Buckthorn Blasters (dobbers) are used to efficiently treat stumps. For turf applications a variety of alternatives to chemical application are used. Two tow-behind aerators were recently purchased to support healthy turf with fewer chemicals. We are also utilizing soil quality restoration using compost more than ever before to support healthy turf in lieu of weed and feed applications.

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

City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation

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?

For ADAPT DSM, the City's first climate action and adaptation plan, we partnered with local community based organizations, and education organizations to introduce specific actions to protect pollinator habitat. Groups include the Des Moines Botanical Garden, the Blank Park Zoo, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. We met with winter camp kids at the Botanical Gardens to teach them about the importance of pollinator habitat protection and restoration. At Blank Park Zoo we attended the Monarch festival and worked with staff during the CAAP planning process to refine specific actions. We also worked WILPF to pass a No Mow May

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Proclamation and are providing educational resources for homeowners about the critical importance of maintaining migratory habitats for pollinators. Lastly we worked with INHF to embed the importance of conservation and habitat restoration.

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.

The ADAPT DSM climate action and adaptation plan was approved by the Des Moines City Council in November 2023. This plan aims to guide the city's climate action efforts and has been a significant step in addressing climate change in Des Moines. https://www.dsm.city/government/strategic_plans/adaptdsm/index.php#outer-407

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

ADAPT DSM Logo.pdf

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

When did this challenge take place?

The Plant.Grow.Fly. initiative at Blank Park Zoo was established in 2014 and is still running. This conservation program aims to protect native pollinators and promote awareness of their importance in ecosystems. The Blank Park Zoo Plant.Grow.Fly. program reached the goal of over 2,000 pollinator habitats registered online to the program, creating an awareness that no effort is too small and everyone can do their part to save pollinators by planting pollinator friendly host and nectar plants.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

2000

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

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48

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

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Parks and Recreation, Iowa State University Reiman Gardens, Prairie Fire Restoration, UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center, Story County Conservation Board, The Rain Campaign, Pollinator Partnership Project Wingspan, Pocket Prairies of Des Moines, Pepperharrow, Trees Forever, Association of Zoos and Aquariums SAFE North American Monarch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge, Polk County Soil and Water, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, Polk County Conservation Board

Please describe your challenge and the results.

The goal was to have a total of 2,000 pollinator gardens registered through the Plant.Grow.Fly. website and the goal was reached in 2025.

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?

Brenton Arboretum Polk County Conservation Rain Campaign DSM Parks & Recreation Polk County Master Gardeners Pollinator Partnership Jovenes Embajadores

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

Bland Park Zoo Monarch Day 2025.pdf

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)

2136

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).

The event took place at Blank Park Zoo and was included as a part of regular admission. The event took place from 10:00 - 2:00 when a majority of guests visit the Zoo. We promoted the event on social media, the Zoo's eblast which goes out to Zoo supporters and Zoo members. We also advertised the event at community booths and Plant.Grow.Fly. presentations.

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What was the date of your festival?

September 6, 2025

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.

1.5

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.

The Blank Park Zoo ran a shortened version of the traditional UPCYCLE program in 2025. We had Zoo volunteer groups work on the front entrance of the Zoo to remove invasive plants throughout the summer and we hosted our Spring Into Action day at Fort DSM Park in partnership with PCC and INHF. Volunteers used hand tools to remove invasive plants and applied herbicide to the stumps. From the material removed invasive plants that are part of an approved list are taken to the Zoo for the animals to browse on.

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

Upcycle 1.pdf

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

UpCycle 2.pdf

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