

City of Sun Prairie

Sun Prairie, WI

Mayor Paul Esser

Pledge Summary

Sun Prairie is a vibrant and thriving community located in northeastern Dane county, just east of the City of Madison. Sun Prairie has become known in the region for its high quality of life, its excellent parks and recreation programs, historic downtown, exceptional public school system, and progressive approach to the development and redevelopment of the community. The city is committed to making Sun Prairie a leading sustainable, vibrant and environmentally friendly community by taking steps to conserve energy, reduce waste, and preserve our natural resources. The city is looking forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator-friendly habitats throughout the community.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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 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 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Stocker	2026	2/20/2026	
Mayor Paul Esser	2025	3/25/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Paul Esser	2024	3/21/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Paul Esser	2023	3/28/2023	Signatories
Mayor Paul Esser	2022	3/29/2022	Signatories
Mayor Paul Esser	2021	4/19/2021	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 (e.g., 50).

200

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.)

150 adults and 50 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).

.04

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 community gardens

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

The Lettuce Dream Community Garden and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden is located at Vandenburg Heights Park which is at the center of the Vandenburg Heights neighborhood. The Vandenburg Heights neighborhood is located in a qualified census tract, it is culturally diverse and has historically been a neighborhood that has received little investment. As such, the city has intentionally made significant investments in the past few years, engaging with the community and adding amenities like the community garden and accessible playground. We hope to continue leveraging the program to engage our most vulnerable and marginalized community members.

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

Sustainability has been identified as a strategic priority by the council. The Mayors' Monarch Pledge is one of the programs that help us achieve that. We hope to continue educating and engaging our community and residents so they too can take an active role.

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?

It would be helpful to see what metrics are being asked to report on at the beginning of the year, that way we can measure throughout the year, rather than backtrack and look for data. It would be cool to see if there's a way for an individual to take the pledge, in addition to the city. That way, there is a way to build cohesion and community around the program.

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

This was our first year being a part of the program, we look forward to continuing our efforts and engaging more residents.

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.

Sun Prairie Parks Friends

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

Carriage Hills Estates - milkweed in the lawn, mow around it like an island of nectaring and milkweed plants.

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:

04/20/2021

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[2021_0420_Mayors' Monarch Pledge \(1\).docx](#)

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

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

[Vandenburg_Heights_Park.jpg](#)

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

Sun Prairie Community Schools, Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Bird Elementary School, Vandenburg Heights neighborhood

How many plants were planted?

32

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The demonstration garden is located at Vandenburg Heights Park. This park is located in the heart of the Vandenburg Heights community where the city's first accessible playground has been built. In addition to the demonstration garden, the park is also home to the Lettuce Dream Community Garden which was installed this year. The community garden is made up of raised beds and is cared for by volunteers in the neighborhood and the community schools site coordinator at Bird Elementary School. The produce grown at the garden is grown by and for the residents in the neighborhood. The park is located at: 1020 Vandenburg St, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

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.

[IMG_0663.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)

The demonstration garden, made up of 36 plants, is located at Wetmore Park. Wetmore Park is home to the city's first splash pad - the Tom and Rita Tubbs Splashpad and Playground. It is also home to the annual summer Concerts in the Park series.

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

Sun Prairie Parks Friends, Rita Tubbs (donor)

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.

0.01