City of Minnetonka

Minnetonka, MN

Mayor Brad Wiersum

Pledge Summary

Minnetonka is a fully developed suburban community of more than 53,000 residents located eight miles west of Minneapolis. The city's natural surroundings — including woodlands, prairies, wetlands and other bodies of water — set it apart from similar-sized Twin Cities suburbs and give the community a distinct character. Minnetonka has a long history of habitat protection and restoration, and in 2017 joined the Mayors' Monarch Pledge to focus actions that benefit monarchs, pollinators and other wildlife on public and private property. Minnetonka is a 2022 Monarch Champion city, completing 26 of 29 action steps. We welcome you to contact our pledge coordinator, Christine Petersen (cpetersen@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-988-8442) to learn more about Minnetonka's efforts on behalf of pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.
- 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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.
- 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 Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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).
- 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.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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.
- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Rebecca Schack	2026	12/12/2025	
Mayor Brad Wiersum	2025	1/30/2025	Monarch Champions
Mayor Brad Wiersum	2024	12/18/2023	Monarch Champions
Mayor Brad Wiersum	2023	12/12/2022	Monarch Champions
Mayor Brad Wiersum	2022	1/10/2022	Monarch Champions
Mayor Brad Wiersum	2021	12/21/2020	Leadership Circle

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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

8000

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.)

We don't track this information, but we made a targeted effort to increase youth engagement in 2023

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.

12

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.

The acreage above refers only to city properties: parks and outlots, trails, and other natural areas; city facilities; rights-of-way and medians, etc. We don't track new habitat on private property, but we have multiple programs in place to empower residents adding pollinator habitat

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

This work is being done alongside our other equity and engagement efforts. This includes youth engagement, providing outreach materials in multiple languages, and offering

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

technical assistance or funding to help residents achieve goals for habitat and resilience on their property. We will continue to prioritize this work.

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

We joined in 2017 because we were looking for a framework to formalize and extend the pollinator protection and restoration efforts already underway in Minnetonka.

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're always eager to hear how other cities are addressing equity and innovating outreach, education and engagement related to monarchs and pollinators.

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

We continue to find new ways to engage residents on pollinator and habitat protection. After Covid, we found that large in-person events weren't the most successful; instead, we do a number of smaller events (through the year, but especially in July, the city's Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month) and we meet people where they are attending citywide events such as farmers market and Spooktacular. Along with education offerings, publications and technical assistance programs, we strive to form partnerships and provide activities/actions they can do own their own time.

Selected Action Items

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:

July 2023

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

Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

1_MPAM proclamation 2023.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

2_Celebrate and protect pollinators.pdf

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

2_Less Lawn for a Healthier Minnetonka.pdf

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

Each year we publish monthly newsletter articles (mailed to more than 23,000 households), monthly e-bulletins (emailed to at least 3,600 subscribers) and occasional social media posts. Numerous publications refer to or focus on pollinator protection and habitat. Our website offers translation for Spanish, Somali, Russian, and other languages spoken in our county. Spanish

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

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

3_Bird Club and Garden Club presentations.jpg

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

3_Cargill_less lawn and soil health_2023.jpg

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

In 2023, staff presented to the Minnetonka Bird Club about how our yards can support food webs food webs – the connections between soil health, plants, pollinators and wildlife. We presented to Senior Garden Club about food webs, emphasizing the role of plants and soil to support pollinators and wildlife and, in turn, get the services of pollination and seed dispersal. We presented to Cargill Industries' sustainability social group about protecting soil health and reducing lawn to add habitat. And we presented to the Save Endangered

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

Animals Club, a service-based group at Minnetonka High school, about the monarch life cycle and habitat needs.

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.

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

5_Henn Cty Green Notes_library partnership MPAM.pdf

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

Minnesota Master Naturalists, West Metro chapter Wild Ones, Prairie Edge chapter Hennepin County Library, Ridgedale branch

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

We connected with MN Master Naturalists to schedule a 2024 presentation about monarchs and milkweed, and to begin planning coordinated efforts to educate West Metro residents about the value and components of monarch and pollinator habitat. We connected with Wild Ones Prairie Edge chapter leaders about developing youth outreach related to monarchs and pollinators. We also formed an ongoing partnership with staff at Hennepin County Library's Ridgedale branch and, in 2023, collaborated to develop book and resource lists about pollinators, delivered two workshops (Planting for Pollinators, and Understanding Healthy Soils) that help residents increase pollinator habitat on private property, and offered two family programs as part of the city's broader Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month.

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.

Four HOAs

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

We made the first steps toward this goal by introducing four HOAs to the Resilient Minnetonka program, our invasive species control programs, and our annual sales that offer discounted trees, shrubs and native plants or seed mixes.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

At the city's first-annual Contractor Expo in February, participants (including developers and landscaping contractors) were provided information about the city's landscaping ordinance and the benefits of creating diverse, resilient pollinator and wildlife habitat.

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.

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

4_Employee awareness.jpg

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

4_Glen Lake Elem parking lot improvements.pdf

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

4_Milkweed and nectar plants.pdf

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

Several city departments, including Parks and Facilities (alongside Natural Resources), as well as an elementary school

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

This is an ongoing effort, but a good example is provided in the 2023 project where a local elementary school had a major parking lot improvement and dry prairie was planted in surrounding areas. We also provide outreach about pollinator protection and related events, helping them gain awareness and take action in their jobs and at home. Parks and Facilities staff have begun to leave milkweed in some rights-of-way rather than automatically cutting or weed-whipping these volunteers. They plant milkweed in some formal beds. And in some areas formerly focused on annual or ornamental plants, they have installed prairie-style plantings that include milkweed and nectar plants. Parking lot plantings at our wellness facility are also done with prairie species.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

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

8_Pollinator education and events 2023.pdf

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.

The 2023 tree and shrub sale offered priority purchasing to residents in heat island areas, and participants received information about the city's Resilient Minnetonka program. Also, our free pollinator education series included five events for residents of all ages and abilities.

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.

9_Arts & crafts.pdf

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

2

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).

200

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).

In 2023, the city partnered with Ridgedale Library (one of the largest branches in the Hennepin County Library system, serving Minnetonka and numerous neighboring suburbs) to hold two family events during the city's annual Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month. Both included arts & crafts activities. And, at October's popular Spooktacular event, staff tabled with information about monarch migration and needs throughout the life cycle, and offered a craft that allowed several hundred children to "make a monarch friend" to take home.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

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

10_Native plant and seed sale.jpg

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

10_Tree and shrub sale.pdf

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

5000

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

600

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

Minnesota Native Landscapes nursery

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

11_Seed Collection 2023.pdf

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

12

What species were collected or propagated?

Common and butterfly milkweed, along with 19 native wildflower and grass species (see attached list)

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

Minnesota Master Naturalists, West Metro chapter

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Every year our staff works with the local Master Naturalists group to collect milkweed and other native plant seed, which is propagated into other parks as needed.

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)

This garden, at the Community Center near city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd.), shows how a pocket planting can provide significant benefits for monarchs, including milkweed and nectar species that bloom across the growing season.

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

None

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.

0.1

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

13_Plymouth-Inverness outlot restoration.pdf

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Intersection of Plymouth Rd. & Inverness Rd.

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

none

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 acres). For reference, 1

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

1

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

This year we reviewed the city's 500+ outlots to find one that could be converted with maximum impact. We chose a one-acre site that is used for runoff collection but, uncharacteristically, covered in turf that must be mowed. The turf was removed in October, after the neighborhood was notified of the plan, and native prairie seed mixes were spread into the moist basin area and drier upland slopes. We will maintain the prairie plantings for three to five years, until established. In 2024, we will do tree pruning and remove invasive trees and shrubs. In 2024 or 2025, we will plant more native trees and shrubs that benefit 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).

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

15_Plants and Pollinators camp.JPG

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

15_NR Club goals.jpg

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

15_NR Club learning plant ID.jpg

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)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

o Our Plants & Pollinators camp (for ages 10-14) took place in September. We also have an ongoing project with Natural Resources Club at Minnetonka High School, providing learning experiences and service opportunities such as removing buckthorn on/near campus and replanting with diverse native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. This year, the club is also working with city staff to choose a more visible spot for a campus wildflower planting with educational signage.

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)

2

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

Minnetonka High School Minnetonka Recreation department

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

none at this time - we work directly with students

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).

50

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

Minnetonka Natural Resources Club at Minnetonka High School

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.

1

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

The city's Natural Resources staff will water trees planted through the project and work with students in spring to manage weedy growth in prairie plantings.

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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

17_Polli-Neighbor Pledge.jpg

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).

1000

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

Hennepin County Library, Ridgedale branch; City of Minnetonka Recreation department; and local businesses including Lakewinds Food Co-op, Tonkadale Nursery, Base Camp Coffee, and Unmapped Brewery

When did this challenge take place?

During Monarch & Pollinator Awareness Month (July) and fall migration

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.

10

Please describe your challenge and the results.

This was the fifth year of our Polli-Neighbor Pledge, promoted during Monarch & Pollinator Awareness Month (July) and migration. In 2023, we made a new pledge graphic that is promoted in publications, at partner sites and events, and is being translated into Spanish.

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).

25

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

None

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

As part of Monarch & Pollinator Awareness Month, we always share ideas for community science; in 2023, we promoted Monarch Nectar Plant Database. We provide information about the program in our promotional materials and on the MPAM webpage at https://www.minnetonkamatters.com/pollinator-month, so we don't track the actual engagement.

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.

19_Social media about milkweed and monarchs.jpg

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

City of Minnetonka Parks, Facilities, and Natural Resources divisions

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

75

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed and nectar plants are now routinely added to planting beds around the civic center campus, and are maintained by Parks staff and volunteers. This year, we found many monarch caterpillars on butterfly milkweed in these plantings - a great reward for those efforts and nice inspiration for the community to continue planting milkweed.

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

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

20_Buckthorn learning module.jpg

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

20_Resilient Minnetonka.pdf

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

20

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.

Invasive species management has been ongoing in Minnetonka since the 1990s, but in 2023 we also created a buckthorn learning module, increased volunteerism to expand removal programs in parks, promoted lawn reduction to residents, and offered the Resilient Minnetonka program. Resilient Minnetonka provides education, resources, funding ideas and technical assistance (including a budget for site consultations, residential buckthorn pick-up, rebates for planting, and a small number of design & plan sessions). This program is intended to increase awareness and empower residents to overcome barriers that might otherwise prevent them from taking action. We emphasized projects that add monarch and pollinator habitat, increase climate resilience, reduce lawn area in favor of ecologically functional plantings, replace buckthorn and other invasive species, and protect water quality by collecting stormwater or reducing erosion.

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.

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

21_Monarch & Pollinator Awareness Month.pdf

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

21_MPAM scavenger hunt.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)

650

What was the date of your festival?

July 2023 (all month)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Hennepin County Library, Ridgedale branch

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).

This year's seventh-annual Monarch and Pollinator Awareness Month included three events (a workshop for adults, an author reading for children, and a movie screening for families) as well as virtual activities for residents to engage with monarchs, pollinators and habitat on their own time. At the July Farmers Market, we wrapped up MPAM by tabling with a pollinators-and-food themed scavenger hunt, free native seed packets, and a milkweed seedball-making activity using seeds collected from city parks.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

22_Interpretive signage.pdf

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

22_Monarch education signs in Spanish.JPG

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

3

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

We created an interpretive sign about monarchs and milkweed, which was installed adjacent to the large prairie/wetland/woodland complex at Civic Center Park, along with two signs in Spanish at the same facility. Two Spanish-language signs (from Monarch Joint Venture - https://store.monarchjointventure.org/) were installed at the same location, covering the monarch life cycle and milkweed/habitat needs.

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).

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

Arbor Day Foundation

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

We are long-term participants in the Tree City USA program.

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?

None

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

This was done years ago at the state level

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.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/minnesota-noxious-weed-list is the state noxious and prohibited weed list; milkweed no longer appears here (not certain of the date this change was made)

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

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

24_DRAFT Review of lawn ordinance.pdf

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

24_Lawn ordinance amendment_2020.pdf

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

The city's Natural Resources and Parks divisions, the Planning department, and the city attorney

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

2019

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

Minnetonka's lawn ordinance was updated in the mid-1990s to permit prairie/meadow vegetation, and was amended in 2020 to permit pollinator lawns. In 2023, after the State of Minnesota amended its Native Landscapes legislation, staff revisited the city's lawn ordinance to ensure the language is clear about lawn alternatives – particularly those that might include milkweed and other native and/or resilient plantings. Effectively, this step is complete but also in progress. The current amendments were initiated by the city's Natural Resources division and moved to Community Development, which will present them to city council in 2024.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

25_Graystar Marlow Opus Station.pdf

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

25_Landscaping code amendment 2019.pdf

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

The city's Natural Resources division, the Community Development department, and the city attorney

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

Complete

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

2019

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.

26_Rain garden restoration at Public Works.pdf

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

26_Westwood Park EAB area replanting 2023.pdf

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

The city's Natural Resources and Parks divisions

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.

Milkweed and diverse native and climate-resilient nectar plants are routinely used in park plantings and restoration projects - so this step is achieved by integrating new practices rather than policy, and we'd consider it an ongoing effort. A good example is Westwood Park, where many ash trees have been removed due to emerald ash borer. At that site, two acres of prairie seed mix was put down in 2023 as part of the ash replacement and restoration effort. Milkweed and nectar plants are also integral components of rain gardens at city facilities, such as the retention basins at Public Works which were restored in 2023.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

27_Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.pdf

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

27_Community Forest Management Plan in process.pdf

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

The city's Natural Resource division, Administration department, and city attorney's office, along with input requests from city staff and the public

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.

This is another step in which essential progress is complete but we continue to take steps to include monarch and pollinator needs in new strategic plans. The Natural Resources Master Plan was created in 2021 and continues to be implemented with strong emphasis on invasive species control and restoration to target plant communities suitable for each park (many of which include milkweed and nectar plant installation). At the end of 2023, a Community Forest Management Plan is in the public comment stage; this tool will support the master plan and includes consideration of pollinator needs. Also at the end of 2023, a citywide Climate Action and Adaptation Plan has passed through public comment and moved to commission review. This supports an existing Energy Action Plan by adding strategies for environmental protection and resilience.

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

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

28_Rx burn Civic Center 1_Oct 2023.jpg

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

The city's Natural Resources and Public Works Operations divisions (including Parks and Streets)

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

in progress

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

Until this year, state law prohibited municipalities from making policy or passing ordinance related to chemical use by residents, landscaping contractors, pest control companies, etc. (which reads, “18B.02 PREEMPTION OF LOCAL LAW. Except as specifically provided in this chapter, the provisions of this chapter preempt ordinances by local governments that prohibit or regulate any matter relating to the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides.”) In 2023, Chapter 18B of state law was amended to allow cities of the first class (population 150,000 or greater) to take over pesticide regulation, but Minnetonka does not qualify so we continue to follow state authority on this matter. Restoration practices and public education have also evolved to emphasize alternatives to chemical use. We teach and practice soil health because healthy soils promote healthier plants; and we implement integrated pest management. Restoration specialists and contractors manage invasive species using hand-control, mowing or weed-whipping, and prescribed burns so herbicide is a last strategy.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

29_Lights Out Minnetonka_Sep 2023.pdf

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

29_Outdoor lighting city code 300.28.pdf

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

Minnetonka's Sustainability Commission; Green Step Cities

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.

Minnetonka is making a start at this substantial goal through outreach and education about the impact of lighting on pollinators and wildlife, as well as inspections in support of existing ordinance related to exterior lighting performance standards. The Sustainability

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]

Commission has listed lighting as a priority topic for upcoming work, hopefully beginning in 2024, but we assume this will be a long-term effort requiring elements to be implemented each year.

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)

At nine residences in Minnetonka's Tonka-Woodcroft neighborhood, where road reconstruction was done in 2023.

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

1800

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.

0.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Rain gardens are installed by the city in the right-of-way (which, in Minnetonka, is considered an easement over private property). Residents are provided a video about maintenance, which suggests steps to take at least once yearly.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u206:v1.14.0.49966]