City of Evanston

Evanston, IL

Mayor Daniel Biss

Pledge Summary

The City of Evanston is committed to monarch and pollinator conservation. In 2018 the City of Evanston unanimously approved the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP), which called for a number of ambitious measures including the conservation, preservation, and expansion of green space in the City.

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.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- 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).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

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Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Daniel Biss	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Daniel Biss	2025	4/8/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Daniel Biss	2024	3/29/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Daniel Biss	2023	3/30/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Daniel Biss	2022	5/5/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Stephen Hagerty	2021	4/27/2021	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.).

5500

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.)

500 youth, 5000 adults

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.

1

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.

Parks, ROW, community gardens

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

Community groups distribute free plants. Gardening groups provide vegetables and education on how to build community farms and food forests.

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

The City of Evanston recognizes the inherent value of pollinators and is committed to engaging community members in preserving habitat.

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What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Accountability tools would be most helpful. We are relying on community groups to report their impact, but there is no universal method to measure the impact.

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

The City is creating a strategic plan to develop purposeful and deliberate planning around naturalized landscapes and habitats.

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:

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

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

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

3000

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

10000

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

Allison Sloan of Shady Grove Wildflower Farm

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

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coordinates, if possible)

The City maintains a demonstration garden at the Civic Center (2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston 60201), and at the Ladd Arboretum. There are also rain gardens at Main & Hinman and in Trahan Park. Lovelace Park has a site planted with native prairie mix.

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

All of these projects were developed and installed in collaboration with quite a few community groups and leaders, including Citizens Greener Evanston. Individual leaders are Tony Rothschild, Elizabeth Cunniff, Wendy Pollock, Leslie Shad, and Rick Mihevic

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.

0.75

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?

Libby Hill (Bird City, Migratory Bird Day), Evanston Northshore Bird Club (Bird City, Migratory Bird Day)

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

Tree City USA, Bird City designation (https://birdcity.org/), Migratory Bird Day

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.

20R10IntegratedPestManagem.pdf

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

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This resolution came about as a collaboration between a few environmental activists throughout town, including legal experts and academic staff from Northwestern University.

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

Continuous

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

The City continues to reduce the amount of pesticides used on public property, and continues to add products that are found to be unsafe. The Resolution was passed in 2010, but the City continues to enforce it and works really hard to limit its use of pesticides. In 2023, pesticides were only used to spot treat cut stumps with no spray applications used.

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.

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

Evanston Ecology Center, Garden Club of Evanston, Lincolnwood, Highland Garden Club, Four Seasons, Natural Habitat Evanston, Ladd Arboretum Stewardship Group, local community gardeners

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

Planted additional pollinator plants (including milkweed), distributed milkweed seeds, and one resident provided 80 monarch eggs to the Ecology Center for observation and release, which were used as an educational tool for residents.

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

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

Eggleston Farm, local community gardeners

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

75

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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Community gardeners engaged with native plant sales and took initiative to plant pollinator plants in their garden beds.

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)

2

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

Signs displayed at Lorraine Morton Civic Center demonstration gardens informing viewers about pollinator plants and habitat.

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)

The City passed an ordinance that allows for property owners to plant plants other than turf grass in the ROW (also commonly referred to as the parkway). These are strips of grass between the sidewalk and the street, where street trees are commonly planted.

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

50

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.

.2

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Property owners are responsible for maintenance.

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.

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7_8_4_1.___RESTRICTED_PARKWAY_PLANTINGS..pdf

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

5_1_3.___AMENDMENTS..pdf

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

This ordinance was a staff effort.

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

Complete. The section of code that was referenced is for authorized parkway plantings. These plantings specifically allow naturalized landscapes in the parkway, and are unrelated to trees/shrubs. This ordinance allows property owners to install plants other than turf grass in the parkway, with the goal of producing habitat for a greater variety of species, including pollinators. The City has also recently changed its property maintenance code so that property owners can have well-maintained naturalized yards without fear of penalties.

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.

6/12/2023

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