City of Saint Paul

Saint Paul, MN

Mayor Melvin Carter

Pledge Summary

As Minnesota's Capital and second most populous City, Saint Paul boasts some of the highest quality parks in the nation and more shoreline on the Mississippi River than any other city. By signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, Mayor Carter strives to build a Saint Paul that works for all of its residents, including Monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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 Melvin Carter	2024	4/30/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Melvin Carter	2023	4/30/2023	Leadership Circle

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Mayor Melvin Carter	2022	4/27/2022	Leadership Circle
Mayor Melvin Carter	2021	4/28/2021	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.).

771

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.)

283 youth and 488 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.

3

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.

parkland

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

2.25 acres of pollinator habitat created in Saint Paul's Areas of Concentrated Poverty

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

To share the results of our work focused on the protection of Monarchs, pollinators and native plant communities.

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?

https://xerces.org/monarchs

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

We will continue to diversify our native plantings - into the future - in order to provide consistent, year-round nectar and habitat for Monarchs and pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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.

400

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.

Active projects to support native plant re-establishment and plant community enhancement across 350 acres in 2021: Henry Park, Highwood Nature Preserve, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Marydale Park; Lake Phalen, Cherokee, Hidden Falls & Crosby Farm Regional Parks. Invasive species management techniques include goat grazing, forestry mowing, prairie mowing, prescribed burning, and seed-head or hand-removal by community volunteers and staff.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Duluth and Case Recreation Center.JPG

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

Cherokee Regional Park pollinator planting.jpg

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

23

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

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Native prairie posts installed at Cherokee and Lake Phalen Regional Parks. Pollination Station signs installed at thirteen pollination gardens at public facilities throughout Saint Paul.

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.

Great River Greening event.jpg

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

May 15, 2021 was Blooming Saint Paul Day - Saint Paul Parks and Recreation propagated and provided 3,000 flowering plants for installation into public gardens supported by eleven community garden groups. Six community vegetable gardens and more than 100 community gardeners were offered milkweed seed for inclusion into public garden spaces. Great River Greening, a local non-profit engaged 115 community volunteers to plant more than 2,500 forbs for Monarchs and pollinators in Hidden Falls Regional Park on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

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)

Bruce Vento Elementary School, 409 Case Ave E, St Paul, MN 55130, within a Saint Paul Area of Concentrated Poverty

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

Saint Paul Public Schools, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

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.

0.01

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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.

Palace Rec RG after small.jpg

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

Saint Paul garden clubs, Great River Greening, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

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

5692

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

May 15, 2021 was Blooming Saint Paul Day - Saint Paul Parks and Recreation propagated and provided 3,000 flowering plants for installation into public gardens supported by eleven community garden groups. Six community vegetable gardens and more than 100 community gardeners were offered milkweed seed for inclusion into public garden spaces. Great River Greening, a local non-profit engaged 115 community volunteers to plant more than 2,500 forbs for Monarchs and pollinators in Hidden Falls Regional Park on Saturday, October 2, 2021. On October 25th, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation staff rejuvenated a raingarden at Palace Recreation Center with 274 native forb plants.

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)

Kellogg Mall Park medians, 62 W Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55101

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

1000

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

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Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Maintained bi-weekly during the growing season. Continue to diversify existing plantings with native, neonicotinoid-free, pollinator-friendly 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.

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

Highland Bridges native planting.JPG

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

Cherokee turf to native prairie.jpg

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

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation with funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant program at Lake Phalen and Cherokee Regional Parks. All City of Saint Paul departments and multiple public agencies collaborated with private development companies to design the Highland Bridges development.

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

Turf mowing patterns were modified at Cherokee, Como, and Phalen Regional Parks across three acres of parkland to encourage native flora to regenerate and to stabilize adjacent, sensitive natural areas. Natural resources and park maintenance staff are encouraged to allow milkweed to grow wherever it is found. Fifty acres of new public and park spaces within the Highland Bridges development will highlight pollinator-friendly, native plantings.

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

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

Department of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Operations Division

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

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Pending administrative approval

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

Parks and Recreation, Operations division has drafted an updated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for administrative approval in 2022. This IPM can be used by other city divisions and departments to develop program specific plans for their work groups. Two acres of native prairie at Cherokee Regional Park and Lake Phalen Regional Park were installed without the use of herbicides as trial projects for limiting herbicide use during prairie restoration projects.

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