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 2022

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

- 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.
- 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

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Mayor Melvin Carter	2023	4/30/2023	Leadership Circle
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.).

884

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.)

659 youth and 225 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.

2

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, community gardens, schools

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

2 new 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?

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Local and state grants have made these projects possible.

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

While two acres of pollinator habitat were created in 2022, over twenty acres of pollinator habitat was enhanced, and the plant communities diversified, to provide consistent nectar sources and habitat for Monarchs and pollinators.

Selected Action Items

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

56

What species were collected or propagated?

common milkweed

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

community volunteers, Saint Paul College

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

We hosted five community volunteer events, three of which did not require pre-registration, for volunteers to help the City collect native seed from our native habitat restorations for future dispersal in areas requiring additional diversity. Common milkweed was one of the target species for collection at these events.

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.

Four. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Saint Paul Public Schools, Saint Paul Public Works, and Great River Greening.

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

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Turf mowing patterns were modified at Marydale Park, adjacent to Loeb Lake, to encourage native flora to regenerate and to stabilize the shoreline across one acre. These areas will be enhanced with a diverse mix of native forbs in 2023. Natural resources and park maintenance staff in Parks and Recreation are encouraged to allow milkweed to grow wherever it is found. Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff utilize native, neonicotinoid free plant material on new projects, whenever feasible. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has collaborated with a local nonprofit, Great River Greening, to install pollinator turf and enhance degraded prairie areas across 20 acres within the Mississippi River corridor in 2023. One pollinator pocket planting was added at a recreation center in 2022, and planning was initiated to add several pollinator pocket plantings on school property in 2023.

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.

In May 2022, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation provided over 1,000 perennial, native plants to adopt-a-garden volunteer groups for installation within ornamental community garden spaces. Across five community volunteer events, fifty volunteers collected native prairie seed for enhancement efforts within Saint Paul's natural areas. In June, ninety volunteers (mostly youth) planted more than 1,500 native forbs at Phalen Regional Park to enhance existing prairie restoration areas.

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)

Planted and maintained downtown landscapes within the ROW with a diverse workforce, including nine youth, in partnership with the Right Track youth employment program.

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

2250

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.

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

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?

Saint Paul garden clubs, Saint Paul Park Conservancy, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

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

3000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Provided over 3,000 annuals, perennials and native plants to over 100 adopt-a-garden volunteers on Blooming Saint Paul Day in May 2022.

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.

350

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 2022: Henry Park, Highwood Nature Preserve, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Marydale Park; Lake Phalen, Cherokee, Hidden Falls & Crosby Farm Regional Parks. Invasive species management techniques included, 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.

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

13

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

We currently have 13 Pollination Stations throughout Saint Paul on Recreation Center and Public School properties. The signs state that native plants in the garden provide food and shelter to local pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It describes why pollinators are important and how one can help protect them. https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/natural-resources-and-urban-ecology-education-0

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.

Parks Operations IPM November 2022-compressed.pdf

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.

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.

November 2022

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 finalized an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan for use within the Department. This IPM can be used by other city divisions and departments to develop program specific plans for their work groups.

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)

Added a Pollination Station pollinator garden at Frogtown Community center within an Area of Concentrated Poverty.

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

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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