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 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- 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.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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
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.).

564

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.)

352 youth, 212 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.

7

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.

schools, ROW, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces, and parks

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

Seven new acres of pollinator habitat created in Saint Paul's Areas of Concentrated Poverty, Six Pollination Stations added at Title I schools in 2023

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?

New dedicated funding, increased staffing levels, and local and state grants have made these projects possible.

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

Seven acres of pollinator habitat were created in 2023, and over 45 acres of pollinator habitat were enhanced to provide consistent nectar sources and habitat for Monarchs and pollinators.

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 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.

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)

What was the date of your festival?

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

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).

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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)

Mounds Cemetery, 10 Mounds Blvd. Saint Paul, MN 55106. The land we now call Indian Mounds Regional Park, located atop the bluffs of the Mississippi River on the eastern side of downtown Saint Paul, is rich in geological and cultural history and is sacred for the American Indian Tribes - especially the Dakota Nations.

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

Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, Prairie Island Indian Community, Upper Souix Community, Lower Souix Community, Shakopee Dakota Community

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740: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.

7

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 375 acres in 2023: Swede Hollow, Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, Lake Como lakeshore, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Marydale Park, Lake Phalen, Hidden Falls & Crosby Farm Regional Parks, Mounds Cemetery. Invasive species management techniques included, forestry mowing, prairie mowing, prescribed burning, and seed-head or hand-removal by community volunteers and staff. Over seven acres of prairie planted in 2023, including the installation of more than 20,000 potted native plants, citywide.

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.

The City has worked closely with Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi and Ryan Companies to ensure that native plant material, including pollinator-friendly species, are incorporated into designs for site development across two drastically different sites - a cultural and environmental learning center and a residential/commercial development. https://www.wakantipi.org/wakantipicenter https://highlandbridge.com/

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.)

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

80

What species were collected or propagated?

common milkweed, butterfly milkweed, swamp milkweed, boneset, joe pye weed, purple prairie clover, cup plant, gray-headed coneflower

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

community volunteers, Como Woodland Advisory Committee and Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi

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

We hosted eight community volunteer events, two 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. Milkweed was one of the target species for collection at these events.

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?

MN Lottery, MN United, community volunteers

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

5150

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Across eight volunteer events, 80 volunteers collected native prairie seed for enhancement efforts within Saint Paul’s natural areas. In 2023, volunteers and City staff installed more than 5,150 native plants across seven sites to include raingardens, demonstration prairies, and community garden spaces.

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)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

3000

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

35

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

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

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

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

Mayor Carter, elected officials, City staff, technical advisors, and subject experts

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.

December 2019. https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/mayors-office/climate-action-planning/climate-action-resilience-plan

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

One of Saint Paul's many goals in the Climate Action and Resilience Plan is to improve the ecological functionality of and resiliency of parks and open space through green infrastructure, best practices for stormwater management, and increased plant diversity and pollinator-friendly habitat.

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)

19

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]

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

We currently have 19 Pollination Stations throughout Saint Paul on Recreation Center and Public School properties. City staff installed six of these Pollination Station demonstration/classroom gardens at schools in 2023 - Battle Creek, Cherokee Heights, EXPO, Groveland, Maxfield, and Phalen Lake Elementary Schools. The signs at these locations 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.

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 six youth, in partnership with the Right Track youth employment program. Planted a portion of the Jackson Street bikeway with native forbs and native flowering shrubs.

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

2700

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.

1

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u740:v1.14.0.49966]