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 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

Systems Change

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

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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.).

401

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.)

100

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.

11

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?

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

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

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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?

Eleven acres of pollinator habitat were created in 2024, and over 23 acres of pollinator habitat were enhanced to provide consistent nectar sources and habitat for Monarchs and pollinators.

Selected Action Items

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)

4,000

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

165

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, Capitol Regional Watershed District, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, MN SEED Project

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)

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Saint Paul Parks and Recreation was able to visit and perform maintenance on over sixty raingardens planted on parkland throughout Saint Paul in 2024. Each of these raingardens is highly visible to the public and each raingarden is planted with Minnesota native species, including milkweeds.

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

Capitol Region Watershed District, Common Cent Projects

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.

3

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).

143

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

Dragons Wynd

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

The Saint Paul Wildlife Monitoring Network program was launched in 2024 by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, utilizing iNaturalist as its platform. In 2024, 35 individuals recorded 67 observations of monarch in all life cycles. In addition, Parks and Recreation partnered with Dragons Wynd to host the 2024 Dragonfly Bonanza at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary on June 26, 2024.

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).

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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)

Pollination Stations https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/natural-resources-and-urban-ecology-education/pollination-stations

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)

19

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

Battle Creek, Cherokee Heights, EXPO, Groveland, Maxfield, and Phalen Lake Elementary Schools.

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

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.

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).

33 students and 6 educators

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

Saint Paul Public Schools

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.

0.25

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

Maintained monthly by Parks and Recreation staff throughout the growing season.

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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 2024: Swede Hollow Park, Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, Lake Como lakeshore, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Marydale Park, Lake Phalen, Hidden Falls & Crosby Farm Regional Parks, Mounds Cemetery, and Highwood Nature Preserve. Invasive species management techniques included, forestry mowing, prairie mowing, prescribed burning, and seed-head or hand-removal by community volunteers and staff. Over ten acres of pollinator habitat and one acre of prairie planted in 2024, including the installation of more than 15,000 potted native plants, citywide.

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.

Saint Paul Park and Recreation, Great River Greening, Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa, community volunteers.

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

Great River Greening has been instrumental in assisting Saint Paul Parks and Recreation with approximately ten acres of pollinator lawn seeding projects at Hidden Falls Regional Park. Mowing patterns have been altered, or current practices amended to support these projects.

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?

US Bank, Target, Allied Solutions, Guadalupe Alternative Programs School

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

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6000

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Across four volunteer events, 40 volunteers collected native prairie seed for enhancement efforts within Saint Paul's natural areas. In 2024, 56 volunteers and City staff installed more than 6,000 native plants across nine events to include raingardens, demonstration prairies, and community garden spaces.

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.

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.)

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

The Blooming Saint Paul Showcase is a collaboration between the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Garden Club, and Saint Paul Master Gardeners. The Showcase highlights amazing gardens as well as stories from residents and business owners who are dedicated to enhancing the Saint Paul community through gardening. This virtual celebration recognizes honorees who have been nominated by the community. City staff and Ramsey County Master Gardener volunteers contact nominees and invite them to introduce us to their garden, share their gardening secrets, or tell us why they are a gardener. Their story may arrive in writing, in a video, or as a work of art. We celebrate all nominees online through social media posts and our website during the rest of the year.
https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/natural-resources/blooming-saint-paul/blooming-saint-paul-showcase
https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/bloomingsaintpaulshowcase

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