City of Prairie Village

Prairie Village, KS

Mayor Eric Mikkelson

Pledge Summary

Prairie Village is a city in Johnson County, Kansas located in the heart of the Kansas City Metro region. With more than a dozen parks, green space is important to the City and it's more than 22,000 residents. Mayor Eric Mikkelson, with the support and guidance of the Prairie Village Environmental Committee, is taking the Monarch Pledge again in 2023, reaffirming the City's commitment to saving monarchs and other 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.
- 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.)
- 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.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2025	3/25/2025	Signatories
Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2023	4/6/2023	Signatories
Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2022	4/4/2022	Signatories

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Mayor Eric Mikkelson	2021	4/29/2021	Signatories

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.).

12500

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.)

250 youth, 12250 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.

0.05

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.

Elementary School

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

This has not been addressed

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

Our motivation is to support monarch conservation.

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?

Valuable resources include our city newsletter, which enables us to disseminate information to most households in Prairie Village, and our annual Fourth of July Festival, which is an opportunity to interact in person with a large number of area families.

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

This year we were able to increase the number of community members we educated about monarch conservation.

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:

May 6, 2023

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

Start Seeing Monarchs Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Start Seeing Monarchs Day - May 2023.pdf

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.)

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

March-April 2023 Village Voice.pdf

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

May-June 2023 Village Voice.pdf

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

The Prairie Village Voice is the newsletter for the City of Prairie Village. It is mailed to every business and residence in Prairie Village and is also available electronically. It is published every two months and allows residents and businesses to keep up-to-date with significant

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events and activities in the city. It is distributed to approximately 11,800 households and businesses in Prairie Village. Two articles were published in 2023 promoting native habitats for monarchs. Articles included 'County funding available to help residents build rain gardens, support pollinators, reduce erosion' in the March/April 2023 edition, page 6, and 'Environmental Committee encourages sustainable lawns' in the May/June 2023 edition, page 6.

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.

Two - The Mayors Monarch Pledge committee and Johnson County Parks and Recreation (the City of Prairie Village is within Johnson County).

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

This is an ongoing project. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge committee has been in communication with a representative from the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department to determine how best to move forward with adding native plants to one of our largest city parks. The subcommittee is currently preparing a formal letter to submit to Johnson County Parks and Recreation in support adding native plants to the park.

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

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

MMP HOA letter (002).pdf

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

Nineteen Homeowners Associations were contacted. Five responded.

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

Nineteen letters written by the Mayors Monarch Pledge (MMP) committee were sent to HOA presidents in Prairie Village. The letter describes our Mayor's commitment to the Mayors Monarch Pledge and expressed a desire for the MMP committee to partner with HOA's to encourage residents to become involved in monarch conservation, including the planting of host and nectar plants for monarchs. Out of the 19 letters sent to HOA presidents, we received five responses. Four HOAs thanked us/acknowledged receipt of

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our letter. One HOA expressed interest in having the MMP committee speak at one of their HOA meetings. (A date has not yet been set to speak at the HOA meeting).

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

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

IMG_6629.JPG

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

IMG_7007.JPG

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

IMG_7313.JPG

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

Between two events, approximately 550 seed balls of Asclepias tuberosa and 200 Asclepias incarnata plants were distributed.

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

700

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

Event #1: For over 25 years, Prairie Village has held Village Fest, an annual July 4th event. During Village Fest 2023, the city sponsored the giveaway of 200 Asclepias incarnata plants and approximately 150 Asclepias tuberosa seed balls (individuals who accepted seed balls were also given soil, a biodegradable pot, and planting instructions). Other activities at this event included the presence of Master Naturalist to provide native plant and monarch education, a community member brought live monarch chrysalises for display and education, a community member brought live honey bees for display and education, a butterfly making craft was offered to children, and a large monarch photo prop was constructed and displayed. See attached photos. Event #2: Go Green Event, held September 23, 2023 at a neighboring city within our county. This event was a partnership between a few of the neighboring cities of Prairie Village, Johnson County Kansas, and local community organizations. At this event, Prairie Village supplied volunteers for the Go Green Event planning committee and volunteers for the event. Approximately 400 seed balls containing Asclepias tuberosa seeds were distributed to event attendees. The event

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was advertised in The Village Voice September/October 2023 edition, page 7
https://www.pvkansas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/13063/638282137417830000

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)

18

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

The City of Prairie Village has 18 registered monarch habitats with signage through Monarch Watch. In 2023, there was one new registered at Belinder Elementary School. The MMP committee had discussed with Prairie Village Public Works about the possibility of the city adding pollinator signage to the native gardens that the city maintains, but no decisions have been made yet by Public Works. The sign at Belinder Elementary School is from the Certified Monarch Waystation program from Monarch Watch: https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/

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