City of Prairie Village

Prairie Village, KS

Mayor Eric Mikkelson

Pledge Summary

Prairie Village, Kansas, located in the Kansas City Metro, stands as a beacon of proactive environmental stewardship, acknowledging that local initiatives can have global impacts as the world grapples with the increasingly tangible consequences of climate change. Since 2021, the City of Prairie Village, under the guidance of the Prairie Village Environmental Committee has participated in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.).

1630

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.)

200

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.

Residences

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 and provided free milkweed seeds to residents.

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:

April 2024

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

Earth Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Proclamation - Earth Day - April 2024.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.)

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

The Prairie Village Voice is the community 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 events and activities in the city. It is distributed to approximately 11,800 households and businesses in Prairie Village. Two articles were published in 2024 promoting native habitats for monarchs. 'Environmental Committee Encourages Residents to Garden for Wildlife' in the March/April 2024 edition, page 6 and 'Prairie Hills HOA Supports Monarch Butterflies' in the September/October 2004 edition, page 8 Environmental Committee encourages residents to garden for wildlife https://www.pvkansas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/13380/638447131831830000 March/April 2024, page 6 Prairie Hills HOA supports monarch butterflies https://www.pvkansas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/13661/638603543752700000 Sept/October 2024, page 8

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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.

4

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

1) The City of Prairie Village is within Johnson County, KS. The Prairie Village Environmental Committee met with a Johnson County Parks and Recreation board member to discuss the master plan for the planting of native plants at the largest park in Prairie Village. This specific park is managed by Johnson County. The County has determined that the park is not an ideal site for wide scale planting of native flowers due to the soil conditions of the park, heavy foot traffic within the park, and the allocation of resources such as native seeds and plants are better suited for other County parks. However, native grasses are already planted at this park and more are planned to be installed. 2) The Mayor's Monarch Pledge Committee encouraged the Prairie Village Environmental Committee to consider making a proposal to the Prairie Village City Council for a 2025 Addendum to the Prairie Village Parks Master Plan that would create specific guidelines for use of pesticides and fossil fuel powered implements as well a specific plan for the inclusion of native/pollinator friendly plants, with accompanying educational signage, in the City managed parks. This proposal was not pursued by the Environmental Committee, but the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Committee will consider bring this proposal to the Environmental Committee again. 3) The Mayor's Monarch Pledge Committee talked with the city clerk from a neighboring city within Johnson County, KS to learn more about their Mayor's Monarch Pledge action items and how they are meeting their goals. 4) The Mayor's Monarch Pledge Committee was interested in the financial incentives offered by the City of Prairie Village to its residents to plant native trees and install rain gardens on their properties, compared to incentives offered to residents of other cities in Johnson County, KS. The committee collected data on the incentives offered in other cities in the County and compiled the data in a spreadsheet. This data may be used in the future to advocate for an increase in incentives offered to Prairie Village residents, if the City of Prairie Village is not on par with incentives offered by other Johnson County cities.

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

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

1

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

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One of the Prairie Village Homeowners Associations, Prairie Hills, was featured in the Prairie Village Voice community newsletter. The article showcased the Prairie Hills Homeowners Association activities to support monarch butterflies and to grow native. ‘Prairie Hills HOA Supports Monarch Butterflies’ in the September/October 2004 edition, page 8 Prairie Hills HOA supports monarch butterflies https://www.pvkansas.com/home/showpublisheddocument/13661/638603543752700000 Sept/October 2024, page 8

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

IMG_0128.JPG

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

22

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

There was an increase in 4 registered Monarch Watch registered waystations in Prairie Village over the past 12 months (an increase from 18 to 22 waystations). Most are on private property. This is the largest annual increase in registered waystations since the first waystation was registered in Prairie Village in 2005. www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/

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.

VillageFest.PNG

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

VillageFest2.PNG

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

VillageFest3.PNG

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

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VillageFest4.PNG

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

VillageFest5.PNG

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

50 Asclepias incarnata seed packets and approximately 200 Asclepias tuberosa seed balls given away.

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

450

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

For over 25 years, Prairie Village has held Village Fest, an annual July 4th event. During the event, the Prairie Village Environmental Committee had a designated event tent, with activities in support of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. 1) The City sponsored the giveaway of 50 Asclepias incarnata seed packets and approximately 200 Asclepias tuberosa seed balls (individuals who accepted seed balls were also given soil, a biodegradable pot, and planting instructions). 2) The City sponsored the giveaway of a Monarch Waystation to a Prairie Village resident. The winner of the giveaway was awarded $250 to be provided as reimbursement for expenses directly related to the development/installation and certification of a Monarch Waystation. Covered expenses included mulch and qualifying plants, and the cost of registering the Monarch Waystation with Monarch Watch. Additionally, the giveaway included a planning/preparation consultation (valued at $50) by a local organization that encourages community members to garden with native plants. A temporary demonstration garden was set up at the Village Fest event to show residents what a Monarch Waystation looks like. 3) Other activities at the Village Fest 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 butterfly making craft for children, and a large monarch photo prop was displayed.

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