

City of Aurora

Aurora, CO

City Manager & Aurora City Council Member, Ward 1 Jim Twombly & Crystal Murillo

Pledge Summary

The City of Aurora is the third-largest city in Colorado approaching 400,000 residents. We value the conservation of our natural resources and seek to be good stewards of the community we live in.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters, other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 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

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city

properties.

- 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 Mike Coffman	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor Mike Coffman	2025	3/16/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Mike Coffman	2024	3/27/2024	Signatories
Mayor Michael Coffman	2023	2/16/2023	Signatories
Mayor Mike Coffman	2022	3/29/2022	Signatories
City Manager & Aurora City Council Member, Ward 1 Jim Twombly & Crystal Murillo	2021	4/29/2021	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 (e.g., 50).

400

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

300 youth 100 adult

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).

5

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

Natural Areas

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

Using monarch conservation talking points to engage marginalized communities in the value of conservation

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

Desire to further the conservation of imperiled species

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?

Economic incentives for planting and preservation of natural areas

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

Based on interests expressed, we plan to increase citizen science initiatives, such as monarch larvae monitoring, next year.

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):

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 a pollinator friendly Aurora brochure and made it available in English and Spanish

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

Open Space and Natural Resources Volunteer Stewards

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Started a wildflower ambassadors program that maintained a pollinator garden and planted species of milkweed

Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.

As part of the Generation Wild program, naturalists educated participants about monarchs, their ecological roles, declining numbers and how they can be protected.

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)

Morrison Nature Center 16002 E. Smith Rd Aurora, CO 80016

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

none

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.

0.17

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 (e.g., 150).

6

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

Butterfly Pavilion

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

Volunteers did butterfly monitoring. They collected data on species observed along designated routes. That data was submitted to the North American Butterfly Monitoring Network under the Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network chapter.

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.

Conservancy Homeowners Association

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

Several members attended butterfly walks where naturalists discussed Monarch butterflies, their ecological importance, declining populations and what can be done to protect them.

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?

3000

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.

Maintenance team used integrated pest management strategies to manage invasive species.

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

City of Aurora City Council, City of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department

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

in progress

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

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department is actively engaged in the planting of milkweed and other nectar plants. Other city departments are in progress.

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?

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department

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

in progress

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

Land management divisions within the city of Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department are working to integrate monarch conservation into guiding documents.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Denver Botanic Gardens, Aurora History Museum, Sand Creek Regional Greenway

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (e.g., 50).

400

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

Exhibit display with monarch cut-out photo booth and monarch dress up costume photo opportunity.