

City of Aurora

Aurora, CO

Mayor Mike Coffman

Pledge Summary

More than 386,000 residents choose to live in Aurora, making it the third largest city in Colorado and the 54th largest in the United States. The city covers more than 163 square miles, and is located within three counties, Arapahoe, Adams and Douglas. Aurora boasts over 8,000 acres of open space, 99 developed parks, 103 miles of trails, 5 golf courses, 3 nature centers, and 2 reservoirs.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

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.

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).

1594

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.)

956 youth and 637 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).

21

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?

Due to the support of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge shown by elected officials continued emphasis has been placed on providing engaging pollinator and Monarch themed content for the community particularly north Aurora residents.

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

Citizen desire relayed through mayor's office to be a part of the pledge again this year.

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?

Financial incentive would be helpful for successful participation to increase future year capacity.

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

General interest in Monarch conservation seems to be more prevalent within the community. More media content seems to be produced and there is an increase in Monarch conservation status awareness within the community.

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:

June 17, 2022

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

Aurora Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

[06.20.22 Aurora Pollinators Week FINAL.pdf](#)

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 80011. Morrison Nature Center is located in north Aurora which is culturally diverse with a significant representation of Hispanic communities.

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 Spaces and Sand Creek Regional Greenway

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

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?

3300

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.

Review and prioritization of staff, equipment, and financial resources to maximize efficiency and productivity in maintenance and conservation of natural areas is consistently undertaken. Comprehensive weed management plan was updated including review by citizen advisory board. Maintenance and volunteer teams used integrated pest management strategies to manage invasive plant species throughout Aurora's open space system. Increased emphasis on using volunteers for mechanical invasive species control.

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).

34

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

Butterfly Pavilion, Monarch Watch, and Colorado Butterfly Monitoring Network

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

The city of Aurora's Open Space and Natural Resources Division partnered with educational organizations and community science projects to monitor butterfly populations in Aurora. Volunteers observe and record butterflies in open spaces and parks multiple times per season, gathering essential data that land managers can use when making conservation decisions. The Monarch tagging program helps answer questions about the origins of monarchs that reach Mexico, the timing and pace of the migration, mortality during the migration, and changes in geographic distribution. It also shows that the probability of reaching Mexico is related to geographic location, size of the butterfly, and the date (particularly as this relates to the migration window for a given location).
<https://butterflies.org/research-and-observe/butterfly-monitoring/>
<https://monarchwatch.org/>

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

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

[Magnificent Monarchs 2021 Exhibit Signage.pdf](#)

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.

Using community engagement and professional interpretation standards programming and display content was developed to be meaningful and relevant to the target audience. Naturalists provided Monarch and pollinator themed programming and educational displays to the Generation Wild Northeast Metro Coalition community, educating participants on the importance of pollinators and the plight of the Monarch. A Monarch themed educational display was designed, produced, and showcased at various locations including nature centers, recreation centers, and community event booths. The display was at Moorhead recreation center, Saddle Rock Golf Course, Senac Creek Nature Center and Morrison Nature Center for several months out of the year. Feedback received from participants showed an increased awareness and appreciation for the natural environment and the roles of pollinators including Monarchs. For the first time Aurora engaged with the Monarch Watch program to train participants on Monarch tagging. <https://www.generationwild.com/>