City of Bemidji

Bemidji, MN

Mayor Jorge Prince

Pledge Summary

Bemidji is a city in Northern Minnesota with a population of roughly 16,000. As the First City on the Mississippi and home of the legendary Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox, Bemidji is rich with natural and historical amenities. It is home to a variety of beautiful parks and community gardens. Mayor Prince of Bemidji, MN has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with his signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2021

Communications and Convening

- 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.

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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jorge Prince	2026	5/6/2026	
Mayor Jorge Prince	2023	3/31/2023	
Mayor Jorge Prince	2022	3/31/2022	
Mayor Jorge Prince	2021	4/30/2021	

Action Items

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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.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

Selected Action Items

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).

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

50

What was the date of your festival?

September 12, 2021

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

Bemidji State Sustainability office, Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Master Naturalists, Garden Club, and Master Gardeners

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

Join the Birds, Bees, Butterflies Bemidji group as they celebrate "Bemidji Connecting with Nature". The event kicks off at 11am with our featured speaker, Larry Weber, at the American Indian Resource Center on the Bemidji State University campus. Then come over to North Country Park at 1pm to hear the Annual Barta Butterfly Report and Annual Brian Bird Report as well as a re-signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. There will be children's activities and a raptor demonstration by the Headwaters Science Center, too! Several area organizations will also have a table at the event.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

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

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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)

The City of Bemijdi has several demonstrations gardens - one at City Hall, One planted at our History Center and three large beds planted at North Country Park. This year a Natural

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Playground was added at the park site, wiht butterfly boxes and other amentities to focus on the butterflies.

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

Master Naturalists - Bogs and Logs

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.

Beltrami County Master Gardeners, BSU Sustainability Office and BSU Students, Bemidji Garden Club, Bemidji Master Naturalists - Bogs and Logs, Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society, Bemidji Parks and Recreation Dept.

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

The Birds, Bees, Butterflies Bemidji! work together to promote native plantings that support the Monarch Butterfly, promote seed and plant giveaways, provide educational opportunities, and continue to meet together to plan activities and events such as the Monarch Festival.

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