City of South Bend

South Bend, IN

Mayor James Mueller

Pledge Summary

South Bend is a city of 100,00 people found in north-west Indiana. We have 56 parks that are green and well-maintained. Many contain excellent habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. For that reason, Mayor James Mueller is happy to take the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and help the prosperity of monarch butterflies in the city of South Bend. Thank you!

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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

- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor James Mueller	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor James Mueller	2025	4/30/2025	Signatories

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor James Mueller	2023	3/30/2023	
Mayor James Mueller	2022	2/22/2022	
Mayor James Mueller	2021	5/10/2021	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.).

150

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.)

150

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.

0.25

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.

Parks and river banks

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

We conduct educational programming on Insects, including Monarchs, for classroom children, primarily. This includes low-income children and those of color.

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

To bolster the population of monarchs in our region, and to help do our part!

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?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]

I don't think I need anything, additionally.

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

We keep plants milkweed and pollinator species throughout the city parks in South Bend!

Selected Action Items

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

Our horticulturalist meets with garden groups and discusses the value of all types of beneficial pollenating plants. I would estimate the number at around 50.

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.

Parks and Recreation, and Sustainability.

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

The city horticulturalist plants milkweed throughout the city, and we have no-mow areas in several parks.

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

The plants are placed throughout the city, especially in medians in downtown.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

500

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

1/8 of an acre?

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Since the horticulturalist is in charge of this, I'm not certain.

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? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

20

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.

We have a program at Rum Village Park called the "Weed Wranglers", where 5 to 10 volunteers per month pull or dig up or chemically treat a wide variety of invasive plants.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

Parks and Recreation maintenance staff.

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

Complete.

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

This policy has been in place for many years within the South Bend Parks and Recreation system - perhaps since 1993. The motivation was financially driven, frankly.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]

N/A

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Nothing this year.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

0

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

None this year.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

N/A

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

0

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

N/A

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

N/A

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u665:v1.14.0.49966]