City of Countryside

Countryside, IL

Mayor Sean McDermott

Pledge Summary

The City of Countryside is a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois. The City has over 450 businesses, a population of 6,420 and nine parks throughout the community. The City built a new Municipal Complex which is LEED Gold Certified and the first net zero energy municipal building in the State of Illinois. Landscaping including a rooftop garden were design with native plants which attract butterflies and pollinators. This past year, staff raised over 50 butterflies which were released on the rooftop. The City plans to construct three butterfly gardens in the coming year.

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.
- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Sean McDermott	2023	2/17/2023	
Mayor Sean McDermott	2022	12/13/2021	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 (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.)

50 YOUTH AND 100 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). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.5

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.

School, park, golf course and residence yards.

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

Free seed give-away event.

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

Dedicated to increasing the monarch butterfly population.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Grants for signage or free give-away events would be helpful.

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

We also raised monarch butterflies and released them into the wild.

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.)

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

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

Communication with the public was done a the quarterly coffee with the Mayor event, quarterly newsletter and our the City's Facebook page.

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

A meeting was held with the city planner to discuss encouraging new developers to incorporate native plants in their landscaping. In addition, added milkweed plants to the City's rooftop garden and the detention area.

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.

Countryside_Creating your Own Pollinator Garden_Version 2_3-17-22.pdf

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

3 dozen plants were given away and packets of seeds were given away

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

40

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

Mayor held the event at his quarterly coffee with the Mayor.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

2

What species were collected or propagated?

milkweed seeds collected

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

None

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

Seeds from the pods of our milkweed plants were manually collected and dried out. They will be planted in the spring in our detention area.

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.

Signs 01.jpg

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

Signs 02.jpg

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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 demonstration garden with signage is located at Ideal School Park, 9901 W. 58th Street, Countryside, IL 60525

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

Ideal School leaders

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

.25

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

None

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

15

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed plants were added to the city's roof top garden and detention area to support the monarch butterflies.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Signs 01.jpg

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

Signs 02.jpg

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

Signs 04.jpg

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

3

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Garden sign includes information on the butterfly lifecycle and native plants; Monarch Larva Monitoring Project includes information on the progression of the larva and its predators; and the Natives, Pollinators and People sign shows the native plants in the garden, describes pollination, different pollinators and how to support native pollintors.

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.

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

Property Manager Mailing.pdf

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

None

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.

5/1/2022

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.

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Date of Proclamation:

5/25/2022

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

Proclamation - June 1st Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation.pdf

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