City Of Marengo

Marengo, IL

Mayor John Koziol

Pledge Summary

Marengo is a community of 7,200 residents on the western side of McHenry County, one of the collar counties of Chicago. Many residents are interested in vegetable and flower gardening, but there is also a lot of turf managed by the city/ park/ schools/ churches/ HOA's that could be converted to pollinator gardens. There is a facebook page called Marengo-Union Mayors Monarch Pledge that has 159 followers, and where the site stewards have been gleened from. 2021 was the first year for Marengo in this program, and 8 sites were started successfully

Action Items Committed for 2023

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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 Proffitt	2026	3/23/2026	
Mayor Mike Proffitt	2025	2/28/2025	Signatories
Mayor John Kozial	2024	3/18/2024	Signatories
Mayor John Koziol	2023	3/22/2023	Signatories

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Mayor John Koziol	2022	1/3/2022	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.).

500

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.)

200 youth 300 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). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.1

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.

city, parkways, parks, easement, business areas

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

anyone can view the gardens

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

to build pollinator gardens where there was grass or dirt

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?

city workers, city soil, park workers, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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

13 stewards worked on 16 different parcels, planting, enlarging, watering during the drought

Selected Action Items

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)

Our best garden is in Indian Oaks Park. It is our largest garden

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

Marengo Park District

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.

.2

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

state farm.jpg

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

prairie bank marengo 3.jpg

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

127 S State St marengo

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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.

.02

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

A new plot for us this year is the parkway land in downtown Marengo. It is adjacent to State Farm office, and they offered to be the stewards. Watering was a strong issue this season, since we had drought most of the summer. They did a great job stewarding! Prairie Community Bank also took land on their lot line adjacent to trees and paid to have a fabulous native garden professionally installed

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

not needed

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

not needed

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.

not needed

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

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City of Marengo does not have a nuisance weed height ordinance, so not needed

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 Marengo, Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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 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.

they are offering any land we want, so we are working on implementing this

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

They are offering any land we want so we are working on implementing this. We are identifying unused land on which to build pollinator gardens. For example, we are adding an easement along a busy residential street, as well as the large grassy entrance to the local food pantry as new pollinator gardens. This year we also added a parkway downtown in Marengo that was weed-choked and ugly. The city donated soil and we planted 100's of natives

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

washington sch.jpg

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

20000

What species were collected or propagated?

common milkweed as well as many other native plant seeds

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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

At the McHenry County Fair we had 6 tables of monarchs, displays, free common milkweed seeds. We planted 1,600 native seeds in spring, then placed them in 2 greenhouses to get an early start, then distributed them among all our pollinator gardens

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.

prairie bank marengo 2.jpg

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

state farm.jpg

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

We maintain a facebook page with 193 members to exchange info and ask for helpers. We set up 6 tables at McHenry County Fair, attended by 20.000 people. Tables included monarch caterpillars, pupae and butterflies, info on how to plant native pollinators. A Big success! We also posted a MMP sign that was handpainted at each MMP garden. We had the signs made by a local sign shop with appropriate wording, then had a volunteer hand paint them with beautiful pollinators and natives plants. They are so stunning, we mounted them with tamper proof bolts, and so far none of them have been stolen. A win!

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