City Of Marengo

Marengo, IL

Mayor John Kozial

Pledge Summary

Raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. (Post to Website and FB) Engage with Riley Township, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs. (Train mowers/employees when/how to mow) Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs. Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at Riley Town Hall or Riley School. Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat. Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat (Funding could come from grants or donated $$ within the community).

Action Items Committed for 2024

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 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

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]

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
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.).

450

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

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.

school, Local Food Pantry, Library

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

We utilize a Facebook page to engage citizens. The program is open to everyone.

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

Enjoyment of the gardens by citizens of the town. The gardens are located on City property where they can be viewed and appreciated by everyone.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]

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?

Master Gardeners, internet

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

We have three new gardens this year. One is located in our downtown area where it is viewable to passerbys. The other is at our local library, where is it again viewable to those that utilize the library.

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:

Feb 3

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

The FIrst Annual Great Seed Event

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

City Marengo Mayors Monarch Pledge.pdf

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.

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

library flyer.jpg

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Marengo-Union LIbrary Marengo-Union Mayors Monarch Pledge volunteers

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]

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

We all pitched in and built a new pollinator garden on library property

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.

2024 Mayors Monarch TOUR Marengo 1.jpg

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

2024 Mayors Monarch TOUR Marengo 2.jpg

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

200

What species were collected or propagated?

milkweed, aster, echinacea, false sunflower and many more

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge volunteers, MCHS high school ag classes, Master Gardeners of McHenry County, The Land Conservancy volunteers

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

We all visited each garden and collected seed

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?

Marengo does not have a height restriction for front lawns, but Union does of 6 inches

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

Marengo OK, still working on Union

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Union should comply in 2025 since they will have a new president elected

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.

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

several city properties now have prairie/ native plantings rather than lawn

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

city hall landscaping, some median strips

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.

always ongoing

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

there will always be more lawns to uproot and plant natives

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.

Pollinator week 2024.jpg

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

Our facebook page is very active with over 250 members Marengo-Union Mayors Monarch Pledge

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

Milkweed is not on the list of noxioux weeds for Marengo

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.

complete

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

complete

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u135:v1.14.0.49966]