City Of Marengo

Marengo, IL

Mayor Mike Proffitt

Pledge Summary

The City of Marengo is in northern Illinois and has 7,500 people in town, surrounded 20 minutes in every direction by row crops of corn and beans. Native plants was a new concept to the city leaders in 2022 when we first proposed, but they have caught on and are helpful whenever we ask. Purchases are still not in the budget, so we construct the MMP gardens for free on city property

Action Items Committed for 2025

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 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 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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]

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.).

900

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.)

10

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.

2

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.

public land like city, park, roadside

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

anyone is eligible to sign up as a steward

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

to spread the good word about natives

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?

support of City of Marengo

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

2 new gardens with 2 new stewards

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

MMP Great seed event.jpg

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

Harvard MMP map 2025 tour 1-8.jpg

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

Harvard MMP Tour 2025.docx

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

Great Seed Event for McHenry County. We distributed packets of free seeds Feb 1. To celebrate Native Plant week, we constructed a tour of one of our cities' native MMP gardens. Attached is the map and tour guide. Self guided

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.

MMP 10.jpg

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

MMP 14.jpg

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]

MMP 20.jpg

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Village of Union, Water and Natural Resources

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

we spread the word about removing village/ city ordinance for height of lawn. Marengo removed, Union did not

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.

MMP 4.jpg

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

MMP 5.jpg

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

MMP 11.jpg

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)

we have planted 10 gardens in Marengo, all on city/ park property. city hall, police dept, retention pond lip, water tower area, park x3, parking area x2, food pantry, downtown sidewalk, school,

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

city trustees, park volunteers, school group, food pantry volunteers

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

MMP 13.jpg

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

MMP 28.jpg

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

MMP 34.jpg

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

700 Mildred St Marengo

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

park volunteers

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.

1

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]

we tarped the area last fall and planted it in spring of 2025. It was maintained weekly by the steward

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

MMP 10.jpg

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

10

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

The signs were professionally printed with lettering and outline, then individually painted by a local artist. Each sign displays a different natural plant or animal: monarch, moth, dragonfly, native plant

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.

milk weed bag o.jpg

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

MMP Great seed event.jpg

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

1,000 packets of seeds

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

1500

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u48:v1.14.0.49966]