City of Verona

Verona, WI

Mayor Luke Diaz

Pledge Summary

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

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Luke Diaz	2026	12/2/2025	
Mayor Luke Diaz	2024	1/19/2024	Signatories
Mayor Luke Diaz	2023	3/15/2023	Signatories
Mayor Luke Diaz	2022	3/7/2022	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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

50

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.)

25

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.

.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.

Within our park system and other public grounds

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

One of the locaitons is adjacent to a residential development consisting of affordable and workforce housing.

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

Continue to restore key habitat to monarch butterfly's within the City

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?

Online Info

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

Additional Planning has been taken place, and habitat creation has been a part of discussions early on in the design phase for future public spaces.

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Selected Action Items

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.

2 Verona Sustainability Task Force and Friends of Badger Mill Creek

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

The Verona Sustainability Task Force is examing current operations of the parks and public works departments and is advocating for practices that protect and restore habitat. The friends group continues to assist with restoration efforts along the Badger Mill Creek corridor.

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)

Century School Park - 309 W. Verona Ave. Verona, WI 53593

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

City lead project.

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.

.07

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

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Sustainability Task Force

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.

N/A

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

The task force is continuously looking at options for stricter lightining standards. We anticipate a ordinance change in 2025.

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:

3/25/2024

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

Maor's Monarch Pledge Days

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

3-25-2024 Mayors Monarch Pledge Days.pdf

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?

The City received native milkweek from Dane County

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

12

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

The plants were placed along the Badger Mill Creek pedestrian trail in demonstration gardens.

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