

City of Plymouth

Plymouth, MI

Mayor Suzi Deal

Pledge Summary

The City of Plymouth, MI is a vibrant community with a population of approximately 9,300 people that is located about 10 miles west of Detroit. The center of downtown is beautiful Kellogg Park, a popular space to sit by the new fountain, visit with friends, or attend a concert or event. Just outside downtown, you'll find traditional neighborhood streets with sidewalks, mature trees, community gardens, and over 12 parks; many including playgrounds. By signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the City of Plymouth is committed to saving the monarchs and increasing awareness about pollinator habitat decline.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- 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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Linda Filipczak	2026	2/8/2026	
Mayor Suzi Deal	2025	3/15/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Suzi Deal	2024	1/6/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Suzi Deal	2023	2/12/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nick Moroz	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 number of individuals reached in the answer field below (e.g., 50).

9200

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." (Only allow numerical values.)

1900 youth and 7300 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).

.5

Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.

Parks, rights-of-way, City Hall, resident greenbelt

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

Provide support to local nonprofit organizations such as Friends of the Rouge, Plymouth Pollinators, and Keep Plymouth Leafy with volunteer opportunities in the community. Volunteer events that occurred this year included tree planting, pollinator garden installs incorporating native plants, removal of invasive species, and local water shed cleanup. Other local nonprofit organization, Friends of the Penn, showed educational pollinator themed movies at the Penn Theater located in downtown Plymouth free of charge during Pollinator Week to encourage families to learn more about protecting our pollinators. The local library distributed free milkweed and other native plant seeds from their new seed library. All seeds were harvested from the local city gardens. All city pollinator gardens include free education materials about creating and maintaining pollinator habitat as well as leaving the leaves in the fall.

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

To address the decrease in the pollinator population and to increase pollinator habitat, the City incorporated the following goals into the 2022-27 strategic plan: 1) Incorporate eco-friendly, sustainable practices into city assets, services, and policies, including more environmentally friendly surfaces, expanded recycling and composting services, prioritizing native and pollinator-friendly plants, encouraging rain gardens, and growing a mature tree canopy and 2) Partner with or become members of additional environmentally aware organizations.

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?

National Wildlife Plant Finder, Homegrown National Park, MSU Extension Center resources, various webinars, networking with other community groups, native plant vendors, and master gardeners. It would be helpful to have more social media content to share regarding the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

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

We continue to be amazed and delighted with the outpour of community support. Residents are absolutely loving the community gardens and native plants sales.

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:

6/5/2022

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

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Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

In collaboration with Plymouth Pollinators, speaking engagements occurred with Northville Country Garden Club, Belleville Garden Club and Wayne Garden Club. During these engagements, information was presented about monarch and other pollinator decline, importance of planting native plants like milkweed, how to get involved with the Mayors Monarch Pledge and how to work with local government to incorporate city gardens and initiate ordinance changes.

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

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

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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).

Spring and fall newsletters are sent via email to residents and posted on social media to provide education on best practices for garden care to protect the monarch population as well as all pollinators. Educational flyers are incorporated in several large city gardens by our local nonprofit, Plymouth Pollinators for passersby to take with them or they can use QR codes incorporated in garden signage. The local nonprofit Penn Theater showed the documentary "Flight of the Butterflies" which focuses on the monarch migration and tells the story of Scientist Fred Urquhart who studied the migration of the monarch butterfly for 40 years. The film was shown free of charge for all ages. Lastly, 2 gardens in the city are certified Monarch Waystations.

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.

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

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How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event?

Spring sale - 300 and Fall sale - 450

How many people attended your event?

200

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

Plymouth Pollinators hosted the event and Michiganense Natives was the plant vendor for both the spring and fall plant sale.

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.

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

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

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

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

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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)

Kellogg Park, City Hall, Lions Club Park, Fire Station Park, Church Street Island and Old Village right of way

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

Plymouth Pollinators

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.

.5

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

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

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

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

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

Plymouth Pollinators

How many plants were planted?

395

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

38 butterfly and swamp milkweed plants and 357 other native nectar plants were incorporated into new and existing community gardens. Many of the plants were planted by community volunteers.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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

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

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What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants?

.25

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

Two invasive species clean-up events were held in 2023 in collaboration with Friends of the Rouge, Wayne County Parks, Plymouth Pollinators and the Plymouth Old Village Association. In the spring, common buckthorn and honeysuckle were cut down to 3 ft, trunks and branches were removed and chipped in the spring. In the fall, the trunks and stems were cut down further and an herbicide was applied via bingo stamper to ensure application was concentrated to a specific area and to indicate that the area had been treated via the dye from the stamper.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

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

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How many garden signs are being displayed and where are they located?

7

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

National Wildlife Federation habitat certification sign, Monarch Waystation signs and other Pollinator Habitat signs as well information boxes that include handouts on how to plant a pollinator garden, why to plant native plants, spring garden care, fall garden care and leaving the leaves. <https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>, <https://www.nwf.org/CERTIFY>, https://www.amazon.com/Pollinator-Friendly-Butterfly-Garden-Sign/dp/B0892VXNDH/ref=sr_1_4?crid=UYH9L134S7I4&keywords=pollinator+signs&qid=1701041947&sprefix=pollinator+signs%2Caps%2C108&sr=8-4 and https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06Y5YW66J/ref=sspa_dk_detail_0?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B06Y5YW66J&pd_rd_w=bkMPs&content-id=amzn1.sym.f734d1a2-0bf9-4a26-ad34-2e1b969a5a75&pf_rd_p=f734d1a2-0bf9-4a26-ad34-2e1b969a5a75&pf_rd_r=48P2D3H6PZ5A8H0PFH74&pd_rd_wg=XqjUU&pd_rd_r=f86054ec-6012-46ce-9b89-ba574fc68b5c&s=handmade&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9kZXRhaWw

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.

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

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

[Goldenrod Noxious Weed Ordinance 20220527.docx](#)

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

Plymouth Pollinators

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.

6/20/2022

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

The Plymouth City Commission officially approved to remove goldenrod from the noxious weeds list at the request of local nonprofit, Plymouth Pollinators. The ordinance was changed in June 2022, however, goldenrod plants were not introduced to local city gardens until the 2023 planting season.

https://library.municode.com/mi/plymouth/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH18BUBURE_ARTXIVVE

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).