City of St. Louis Park

St. Louis Park, MN

Mayor Nadia Mohamed

Pledge Summary

The City of St. Louis Park is a fully developed first tier suburb of Minneapolis. Understanding the impacts of this development level, St. Louis Park has committed to being a leader in environmental stewardship as one of its strategic objectives. St. Louis Park is also home to 52 parks and the Westwood Hills Nature Center which educates and connects the urban population with the natural environment. Mayor Mohamed of St. Louis Park is committing to promote the addition and enhancement of habitat in parks and throughout the city that supports and protects the monarch butterfly and other pollinators by signing the Mayor's Pledge.

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 gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Nadia Mohamed	2026	3/31/2026	
Mayor Nadia Mohamed	2025	3/28/2025	Leadership Circle
Mayor Nadia Mohamed	2024	3/27/2024	Leadership Circle
Mayor Jake Spano	2023	3/27/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Jake Spano	2022	3/14/2022	Leadership Circle

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.).

1450

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.)

1250

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.

1.17

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.

Vacant lots, turf areas in parks that are not used for other recreational activities, near park signs, and road rights-of-way.

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

We utilized the planting of pollinator friendly plants in right of ways component to install pollinator friendly plant near our elementary school that is within our state identified Environmental Justice area of need. We have also placed our pollinator/monarch

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demonstration gardens in parks and public spaces available to all residents in our city such as our recreation center and near park signs.

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

This pledge process keeps the importance of dedicating resources to pollinator friendly practices in the forefront for city staff and elected officials. It also helps us focus objectives and tasks surrounding our urban ecology.

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?

Technical information on conversion of urban spaces to pollinator habitat is always helpful given the unique environments for each project.

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

The City of St. Louis Park has branded its pollinator efforts "Pollinate the Park" to have an overarching program name for all of the work we are performing for this aspect of ecological restoration. The city has also now dedicated $30,000 annually (requires annual approval) in funds to be used for pollinator habitat improvement and maintenance.

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.)

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

The City of St. Louis Park has a branded program called "Pollinate the Park". This program encompassed all the activities the city performs to enhance pollinator habitat on public and private property. This includes an annual native plant sale, conversion of underutilized turf areas to native plant/pollinator habitat, bee friendly parks where herbicides are not used, Rainwater rewards program for rain garden installation assistance, converting traditional park flower beds to pollinator pockets, programing for pollinator topics at our nature center, and working with schools to convert areas of turf to pollinator friendly landscapes. Web page is found here: https://www.stlouisparkmn.gov/government/departments-divisions/natural-resources/habitat-restoration/bees-and-pollinators

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Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

15 organizations: Browndale Neighborhood Association Fern Hill Neighborhood Group Lake Forest Neighborhood Group Friends of Bass Lake Aquila Neighborhood Group Westwood Hills Neighborhood Group St. Louis Park Resident Volunteers Minnesota Master Naturalist Program Minnesota Master Gardener Program Minnesota Native Plant Society Wild Ones – Prairie Edge Chapter Ecological Landscaping Association High School Environmental Club Youth Environmental Activist Club Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Neighborhood associations and organizations including Browndale, Creekside, Fern Hill, Lake Forest, Aquila, and Westwood Hills. Friends of Bass Lake actively participated in ecological restoration and creation of pollinator habitat projects, including planting and maintaining native gardens with milkweed and other nectar rich flowers that support monarchs and other pollinators. Individual residents adopted a park garden by helping to plant native and annual plants in gardens located in parks, roundabouts or right of ways throughout the city. They planted nectar rich flowers for monarchs and added native milkweed where it was not present. We have over 80 residents who volunteered at out gardens in 2025 Individual residents took on nearby city lots as Habitat Improvement Projects on vacant city lots near their home, donating their time and attention to invasive plant removal, seeding bare soil and planting native plants provided by St. Louis Park, to improve habitat. 16 of 19 projects were active in 2025. Minnesota Master Naturalist volunteers adopted gardens and habitat improvement projects focused on increasing native plant diversity and providing essential food and shelter for monarchs. Minnesota Master Gardener volunteers contributed by planting high-nectar-producing flowers, managing invasive species, and reducing weed pressure to improve habitat quality. Minnesota Native Plant Society members attended meetings to deepen their knowledge of native species and habitat restoration techniques, enhancing the effectiveness of their conservation efforts. Wild Ones – Prairie Edge Chapter members participated in webinars focused on pollinator-friendly garden design, with an emphasis on supporting monarch butterflies. Ecological Landscaping Association members engaged in ongoing education through webinars, learning about native garden design strategies and how to foster community support for pollinator initiatives. High School Environmental Club helped to plant a new turf reduction prairie pocke garden in a parking lot bump out YEA Crew two young people who actively engage in new projects at Louisiana Oaks. This year it was planting native plants and annual nectar rich flowers in a raised bed garden that was no longer being used by another organization. As part of the 2025 Pollinate the Park Campaign on April 22, 2025 Dan Shaw from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources as a guest speaker. His presentation focused on pollinator gardening in residential landscapes, offering practical guidance and inspiration for community members.

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Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

7632

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

160

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

The City of St. Louis Park hosted and promoted this event.

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)

In 2025, we created 11 brand-new pollinator gardens across the city located near park signs, along boulevards and rights-of-way, and at prominent municipal buildings such as the city office and our local parks and green spaces. It was an excellent year for planting, with ample rainfall supporting healthy growth throughout the summer. Some of our newly established gardens include: Municipal Service Center (MSC) Midrib Parking Lot Garden – 7305 Oxford St. This garden stretches along a busy parking area used daily by both employees and residents visiting the building. It has become a vibrant monarch habitat, featuring abundant swamp and common milkweed. In late summer, the blooming meadow liatris attracts spectacular numbers of monarchs, delighting visitors and staff alike. We also filmed an educational video here about the importance of pollinator-friendly planting, which was shared on social media to promote community awareness. Fernhill Neighborhood Garden – 2840 Toledo Ave. (near the old Rock Island Ruins) Funded by a neighborhood grant and planted by local volunteers, this large garden lies along a popular walking path in a recently acquired city greenway. The site combines natural beauty, historical character, and strong community involvement. Lake and Brookview Right-of-Way Prairie Garden Located where Lake Street and Brookview converge, this native prairie garden features plantings of bush honeysuckle, low-growing sumac, and a variety of prairie wildflowers that support monarchs and other pollinators. Louisiana Oaks Park Gardens at 3500 Louisiana and Oak Leaf Ct parking lot and picnic shelter. At Louisiana Oaks Park, home to community soccer fields, summer camps, and private events, we added two new gardens: one in a parking lot bump-out and another in three large raised beds near the park building. The gardens feature meadow liatris and Mexican sunflower, both highly attractive to monarchs. Many residents have commented on how much they enjoy seeing these colorful plantings as they attend activities or stroll through the park. Meadowbrook Boulevard

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Garden – Creekside Neighborhood at 4240 Meadowbrook BLVD across from 4306 Alabama Ave S. Planted along the roadway and adjacent wetland, this highly visible garden was installed by staff and volunteers. It includes several species of milkweed and liatris, providing excellent monarch habitat for those passing by on foot or by car. Overall, the creation of these 11 new pollinator gardens in 2025 reflects our community's ongoing commitment to supporting monarchs and other native pollinators. Each location was chosen for its visibility, accessibility, and potential to engage residents in appreciating and protecting these important species.

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

Creekside and Fern Hill neighborhood associations assisted with two of the projects.

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.

0.07

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

2916 Maryland Ave S, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

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

Motived neighbor to the property.

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.

0.16

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.

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Conversion started in fall of 2024 with follow-up prep in spring and fall 2025. Dormant planting was in fall 2025.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

Westwood Hills Nature Center offers the following elementary school field trip programs that include discussions of pollinators and pollinator-friendly habitats: Autumn Trees and Apples, Honeybees and Beekeeping, Seed Dispersal, How Plants Grow. Education about pollinators is also often a part of our preschool, family and summer camp programs.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

13

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Schools: St Louis Park School District, Meadowbrook Elementary, School of Engineering and Arts, Zachary Lane Elementary, Cornelia Elementary, Blake School, Good Shepherd School, Carondelet Catholic School; Other Groups: Minnetonka Community Center, Born Abel

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

Field trip program materials are available upon request.

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

1250 students

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

None other than the schools.

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How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

1

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

The planted habitat is maintained on a regular basis throughout the growing season by Westwood Hills and other city staff, volunteers and periodic, contracted visits from Prairie Restorations, an ecological restoration company.

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?

None

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

21

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Our Nelson Park community garden has a pollinator pocket garden under the park sign. This was planted in 2020 (estimated) but is maintained multiple times annually.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

2

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

We have a pollinator sign printed that is to be installed this year at our monarch pollinator garden near the entrance to our recreation center and water park. This was created by our design staff at the city and printed by a local company. It is approximately 24' x 36". There is also a pollinator information sign that the city maintains near a water retention area near the Minnehaha Creek that runs through the city were pollinator plants were placed in 2020. This is also approximately 24' x 36". It is along a paved trail that is heavily utilized.

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Initiate or support community science (or citizen science) efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.

How many estimated individuals participated in your community science effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 150).

0.0

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

none

Please describe the community science program that you supported or initiated. Provide a link to any relevant programs, if possible.

Naturalists at the city's Westwood Hills Nature Center started recording monarch sightings with Journey North https://journeynorth.org/

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

none

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.

Bee-Friendly Resolution, Passed March 16th, 2015.

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

The city currently follows these actions within its operations: 1. The City shall undertake its best efforts to become a Bee-Safe City based upon the Precautionary Principle. 2. The City shall adhere to Hennepin County’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program parameters, emphasizing biological controls over pesticides. 3. The City shall refrain from the use of systemic neonicotinoid pesticides on St. Louis Park City property. 4. The City

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shall undertake its best efforts to prescribe and use systemic neonicotinoid free plants, seeds, and products favorable to bees and other pollinators in the City's public spaces. 5. The City shall designate Bee-Safe areas (Browndale, Fern Hill, Lamplighter, Minikahda Vista, Shelard, Twin Lakes Parks, Westwood Hills Nature Center, and Bass Lake Preserve) which feature City plantings that are free from systemic pesticides including neonicotinoids. 6. The City shall undertake best efforts to communicate to St. Louis Park residents the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator-friendly habitat.

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