City of Missoula

Missoula, MT

Mayor Angela Davis

Pledge Summary

The City of Missoula is committed to stewarding it's natural resources and supporting pollinator conservation. Missoula's Parks and Recreation Department manages thousands of acres of parks, trails, and open space. This Monarch Pledge supports ongoing efforts to incorporate conservation, education, and restoration into Missoula's Parks.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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

- 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.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Angela Davis	2024	4/29/2024	Signatories
Mayor Jordan Hess	2023	2/23/2023	
Mayor John Engen	2022	3/21/2022	

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.).

85

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.)

40

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.

1.4

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.

Conservation Lands, Trailheads, Shared-Use Commuter Paths, and Developed Parks

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

Through efforts at City-maintained community garden plots, by working to improve native habitat and natural values at neighborhood parks to bring access to nature closer to home, and by providing free programs to the community with an aim of reducing barriers to engagement with City Conservation Lands.

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

We are working to provide low-barrier programs across the City. Our habitat stewardship volunteer days are free and open to all.

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?

Working with the AmeriCorps Member is a great resource, helping to increase capacity and spread messaging.

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

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The City of Missoula continues to look for new ways to increase habitat value across all green-space, and aims to continually expand ecological restoration efforts and native plant species landscaping in developed settings.

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.

1. City of Missoula Parks and Recreation 2. City of Missoula Stormwater

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

Both departments within the City of Missoula worked to expand specifications for pollinator-friendly native forbs, reduced mowing areas, and reduced turf grass areas in new projects. Projects included Cattail Corner Stormwater Wetland, Takima-Kokaski Park, and projects across the Conservation Lands System.

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

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

246

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.

The City of Missoula Conservation Lands Program utilizes an Integrated Pest Management approach to their invasive species removal program. This program covers invasive species management across 4,700+ acres of Conservation Lands surrounding the City of Missoula.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

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Trees for Missoula, City of Missoula Parks & Recreation, and City of Missoula Urban Forestry Program

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.

These updates are a work in progress.

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

City of Missoula Parks & Recreation is working to update development code and review processes to ensure a greater variety of native plant materials are allowed for and incorporated into City code documentation.

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?

Garden City Harvest, City of Missoula Parks & Recreation

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

300

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Three primary areas were targeted for additional wildlife and pollinator habitat: at Community Gardens operated by Garden City Harvest, along developed park trailways, and on Conservation Lands restoration sites. 3 acres of new habitat were seeded with native grasses and forbs along a new packed gravel trail in Bellevue Park, and area which had previously been maintained for turfgrass. Adding native plant structure and plant diversity provides valuable pollinator habitat in the heart of Missoula.

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