City of Wheat Ridge

City of Wheat Ridge, CO

Mayor Bud Starker

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2022

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Korey Stites	2026	3/27/2026	
Mayor Bud Starker	2025	3/20/2025	
Mayor Bud Starker	2024	3/15/2024	Signatories
Mayor Bud Starker	2023	4/26/2023	Signatories
Mayor Bud Starker	2022	3/31/2022	Signatories

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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.).

600

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.)

50 youth and 550 adults

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.

.5

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.

Habitats have been created in resident yards as well as our community garden.

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

Wheat Ridge uses this program to engage with marginalized communities through a variety of platforms including providing educational materials at events throughout the city, hands-on workshops and events, educational newsletters, and social media posts. Most of the hands-on engagement has taken place in conjunction with the city's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, with one of the participating neighborhoods being disadvantaged. Hosting events and providing education about pollinators has been an effective way to boost and maintain resident engagement.

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

Wheat Ridge and our residents take pride in the city's agricultural roots. Residents and organizations alike have a shown a strong interest in supporting and protecting urban agriculture, gardening, and pollinators, and Wheat Ridge is dedicated to supporting this.

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

The webinars are useful. It would be great to learn more about events and other more interactive things that communities have had success with beyond just providing educational information.

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

We were successful in providing regular educational materials which has resulted in residents showing a clear interest in promoting and creating native habitats for pollinators. We are beginning to look at creating demonstration gardens and plan to continue working on this in 2023.

Selected Action Items

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?

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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:

July 11, 2023

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

2022 Monarch Butterfly Pledge Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2022 Monarch Butterfly Pledge Proclamation.pdf

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other

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long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

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

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)

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

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

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

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

Peek into a bees life - RWR workshop 2022.pdf

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

The Perfect Match Native Plants and Regenerative Ag - RWR workshop 2022.pdf

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

Wheat Ridge partnered with its community garden (Happiness Community Garden), garden users, and the Jefferson Conservation District to offer the Regenerate Wheat Ridge program which focuses on urban agriculture. Eight workshops were held in person throughout the summer and fall on various topics including "The Perfect Match: Native Plants and Regenerative Ag" and "Peek into a Bee's life" to educate the public. Educational materials are provided in conjunction with each workshop and are also available online.

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.)

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

September 2022 Spotlight - pollinators.PNG

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

July 2022 Spotlight - pollinators.PNG

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

March 2022 Spotlight - pollinators.PNG

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

Peek into a bees life - RWR workshop 2022.pdf

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

The Perfect Match Native Plants and Regenerative Ag - RWR workshop 2022.pdf

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

- Monthly sustainability spotlights on different topics are posted on the city's website and social media; this year 3 spotlights focused on pollinators and native habitats - Educational materials provided online and at events throughout the City - Weekly social media posts about sustainability in Wheat Ridge with some focusing on pollinators - Two in person workshops through Regenerate Wheat Ridge, with educational materials also available online

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

95

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

Sustainable Neighborhood Network and resident leadership teams from four Wheat Ridge neighborhoods, and Denver Botanic Gardens

When did this challenge take place?

There were several neighborhood events and projects that occurred throughout 2022.

What is the total acreage of habitat created? 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.

.02

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Neighborhoods in Wheat Ridge, as part of the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, participated in several neighborhood projects and events throughout 2022 pertaining to pollinators and native plants: - Native Plant Educational Workshop: one neighborhood partnered with Denver Botanic Gardens to educate participants on how to start, build, and maintain native gardens; the benefits of doing such for pollinators; and which plants are best for our location. This event was so popular than an encore presentation was held several months later. 83 residents participated across the two events. - Garden Tours: one neighborhood hosted a walking garden tour, showcasing local yards that are water-wise and pollinator friendly. 12 residents participated in the garden tours. This is part of a larger, ongoing project in the neighborhood to promote sustainable gardening and pollinator-friendly yards. - An estimated .02 acres of habitat was created within the neighborhood through people doing their own native and pollinator plantings, and we also had several residents take advantage of purchasing Garden In A Box kits which also provide pollinator and native plants. These items were not individual challenges, but neighborhoods participating in the program are required to get a certain number of credits each year to earn either "participating" or "outstanding" certification.

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