City of Wheat Ridge

City of Wheat Ridge, CO

Mayor Bud Starker

Pledge Summary

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.)

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- 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.

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

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.).

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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.)

20 youth and 50 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.

0

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.

About 300 square feet of habitat has been created at one of our popular community parks along the green belt trail, and milkweed has been planted in 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. Two of these neighborhoods are working on building community demonstration gardens, which will help them to engage further with neighbors.

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

Wheat Ridge understands the importance of pollinators, and has heard desire from the community to adopt better, organic land management practices.

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?

Webinars, learning what other communities have been doing, and the free plant grant/program was helpful. It would be great to have more information on grants that might help implement our chosen action items. Marketing toolkit.

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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 and asking the City to reconsider some of its land management practices. We are working on creating native plant demonstration gardens in two of Wheat Ridge's Sustainable Neighborhoods, with planting scheduled for 2024.

Selected Action Items

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)

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

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)

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

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.

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 10, 2023

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

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation

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Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Monarch Pledge proclamation_July 10 2023.docx

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)

Gave away about 50 seed packets (bags were divided up into smaller seed portions), and of the available seeds we had people donate about 10 packets of seeds to swap.

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

200

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

Wheat Ridge Sustainable Neighborhoods Program hosted this event (sustainable easter egg hunt + seed swap)

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.

native-plants-bloom-times.pdf

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

host-plants-for-common-front-range-butterflies-and-moths.pdf

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

wild-ones-front-range-easy-to-grow-colorado-native-plants.pdf

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

wild-ones-front-range-chapter-native-plant-list.pdf

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

Maintained efforts started last year to educate the public about the importance of pollinators and how to garden with native plants and create pollinator-friendly habitat. We hosted an educational and planting event at a local park, and one of Wheat Ridge's Sustainable Neighborhoods has hosted neighborhood events including garden tours. These events typically provide printed educational material. The City also posts a Sustainability Spotlight each month, and has focused on pollinator education, and we provide educational materials across our web platforms.

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