

# City of Wheat Ridge

City of Wheat Ridge, CO

Mayor Bud Starker

## Pledge Summary

### Action Items Committed for 2024

#### 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Corey 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 (e.g., 50).**

250

**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.)**

10

**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).**

.01

**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.**

primarily public city parks and Happiness Community Garden

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

We strive to provide communication materials through a variety of methods including in person and online to ensure maximum availability to the community. Additionally, many of our MMP efforts are in person events located at different locations and times throughout the City.

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

This topic has been a major interest of the Sustainable Wheat Ridge committee over the past several years. This group advises the City on environmental sustainability, and has been actively involved in updating landscape ordinances, participating in planting events, and putting together educational resources about pollinators and creating pollinator habitat. This program is a way to visualize and recognize the City's efforts, and is helpful in

providing resources and ensuring that we have an annual work plan in this space each year.

**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.

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

Our staff and residents continue to express interest in doing this work and we are excited to expand our efforts and continue striving to increase community awareness about pollinator and monarch related issues.

## Selected Action Items

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

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

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

**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 8, 2024

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

Monarch Butterfly Proclamation

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

[240708 - A.2 - PROCLAMATION - Monarch Butterfly\\_MH edit.pdf](#)

**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.**

Sustainable Wheat Ridge (volunteer, resident committee with 12 members), Parks and Recreation city staff

**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.**

[Pollinator Info for MMP Reporting.docx](#)

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

Native pollinators including Monarchs are discussed at Regenerate Wheat Ridge workshops, specifically the "All about Pollinators" workshop on August 14th which focused on native pollinators and monarchs. Information was provided digitally to participants. Additionally, beginning in January 2024, staff members (Environmental Interpreter and Garden Coordinator) have been collaborating on a short informative article about native plants and native pollinators in the Parks & Rec email newsletter. City staff members also sent emails citywide on World Bee Day and during Pollinator Week that promoted native pollinators and host plants. The Sustainable Paramount Heights neighborhood has a webpage and has compiled several pollinator and native plant resources: Native Plant List, Easy to Grow Colorado Native Plants, Native Plants Bloom Times, Plant Vendors, Host Plants for Common Front Range Butterflies and Moths, Finding Native Plants at Colorado Nurseries, and Native Plants for Birds. Volunteer and resident-led Sustainable Wheat Ridge committee writes a monthly spotlight on their webpage about various topic, March 2024 was "What's All the Buzz About?" focusing on pollinators; these spotlights are also promoted on social media. Additionally, the City hosted an educational ribbon cutting at a new native plant demonstration garden in a neighborhood park.

**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.**

[Pics of gardens for MMP Reporting.docx](#)

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

Wheat Ridge continues to partner 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. A series of workshops are held in person throughout the summer and fall on various topics including "All About Pollinators" to educate the public. Educational materials are provided in conjunction with each workshop and are also available online. Additionally, extra space in garden beds is utilized to plant native milkweeds, and staff worked to increase the number of native plants throughout the garden grounds in 2024. Additionally, two volunteer groups from two neighborhoods in Wheat Ridge's Sustainable Neighborhoods program worked to design and plant native and pollinator-friendly in their neighborhood parks, and plan to maintain and expand them over the next couple of years.

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

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

75

**How many people attended your event?**

150

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

The City's Regenerate Wheat Ridge program partnered with Denver Urban Gardens to host its first seed exchange tour; a seed exchange table was located for one week at the Active Adult Center and the Wheat Ridge Recreation Center. The table was also available at historic society's monthly meeting, an Earth Day event, municipal buildings, and at the Regenerate Wheat Ridge workshops.

**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.**

[Pics of gardens for MMP Reporting.docx](#)

**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)**

Two gardens were planted at Paramount Park and Panorama Park in Wheat Ridge. These locations are both popular parks in the City, with regular programming and visitation by the community. Both of these parks are located within neighborhoods that participate in the Sustainable Neighborhoods program, and volunteer groups worked hard to design, plant, maintain, and promote these gardens to the community.

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

Primarily neighborhood champions from the Sustainable Neighborhoods program, in collaboration with the City's Parks department.

**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.**

.01

**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?**

Sustainable Wheat Ridge (resident volunteer sustainability committee) and volunteers from Sustainable Neighborhoods program, Regenerate Wheat Ridge program

**How many plants were planted?**

75

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

In collaboration with Wheat Ridge's sustainability coordinator and staff from the Parks department, volunteers from Sustainable Wheat Ridge and the Sustainable Neighborhoods program designed, planted, and are maintaining two new native plant and pollinator-friendly gardens in Panorama and Paramount parks. Additionally, the City's community garden, Happiness Garden, maintains several milkweed stands and adds native plants each year to their food forest as a demonstration of urban agroforestry.

**Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.**

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

[2024 SAP Update Info for MMP Reporting.docx](#)

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

Throughout the process of updating our sustainability action plan, we worked with volunteers from Sustainable Wheat Ridge and the Sustainable Neighborhoods program, surveyed community residents and businesses, and facilitated a robust staff engagement process.

**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.**

The Sustainability Action Plan was adopted by City Council on October 14, 2024. It is linked in the attached document or can be located at [https://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/44227/Final\\_2024-Sustainability-Action-Plan-Update-A-Five-Year-Roadmap](https://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/44227/Final_2024-Sustainability-Action-Plan-Update-A-Five-Year-Roadmap)

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

n/a