City of Harvard

Harvard, IL

Mayor Michael Kelly

Pledge Summary

The City of Harvard is situated near the State Line area of Northern Illinois and is about 80 miles NW of Chicago in McHenry County. The City has a population of about 9,500. Mayor Michael Kelly and the Harvard City Council are committed to helping provide habitat for the Monarch Butterfly and other pollenators within in City owned property and educating & encouraging residents to help provide additional habitat on private property.

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- 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

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Michael Kelly	2026	2/12/2026	
volunteer pat lawlor	2025	12/9/2024	Signatories
Mayor Michael Kelly	2024	3/19/2024	Signatories
Mayor Michael Kelly	2023	3/22/2023	Signatories
Mayor Michael Kelly	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.).

950

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.)

450 youth and 500 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.

on city and park properties

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

one garden is in front of the Community Health Partnership building

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

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to expand pollinator gardens as demonstrations for residents to create their own

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?

gardeners donated pots and trays

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

the gardens created excitement and questions, which was great!

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.

Harvard Park Dept was generous in donating mulch and aged manure, then tilling it into the soil

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

Harvard Park Dept mowed around our gardens, and helped protect the pool garden with stakes after it was run over by a truck

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.

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

paver edge pool 1.jpg

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

Washington School before.jpg

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

City of Harvard, Harvard Park Dept, Harvard Garden Club, Community Health Partnership

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

Each group had a garden on one or more of their sites. They helped us with whatever we needed

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

MMP Harvard sign no park.jpg

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

1

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

Uploaded the photo. "This is a pollinator garden of native plants. Insects, birds, mammals and butterflies all help pollinate these flowers. Pollinators and plants have evolved to attract each other, ensuring that their species survive. "

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

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

monarch july 1.jpg

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

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https://www.google.com/maps/@42.4147768,-88.6180714,3a,75y,200.31h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1spbKEWhWpCUGYuMP46PLP4w!2e0!6
pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fpanoid%3DpbKEWhWpCUGYuMP46PLP4w%26cb_client%3Dsearch.revgeo_and_fetch.gps%2
Address 462 W. Brink St. Harvard, IL The tall green circle along the creek is the garden.

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

200

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

.05

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

no maintenance yet. We planted rye as a cover crop along with the prairie seeds

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.

bricks for pool.jpg

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

CHP 2 team.jpg

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

Oct bags o seeds.jpg

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

City of Harvard, Harvard Park Dept, Harvard Garden Club, lifeguard pool workers. They all helped rake, plant, rototill, shovel mulch, pull weeds, place brick outline, dig out rocks. Not in that order!! This is such a public place, with 100's of people using the pool and dropping off kids daily that the garden was Very visible!!

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.

harvard pool plot.jpg

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)

The pool garden was the most visible one, with a constant line of cars for drop off and pick up during pool season. In Lions Park at the corner of Galvin Pkw and E Brown St in Harvard. No address listed

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

Harvard Park Dept, Harvard Garden Club, City of Harvard

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.

.05

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