City of Harvard

Harvard, IL

Mayor Michael Kelly

Pledge Summary

The City of Harvard is a community of 9,400 residents in the northwest corner of McHenry County, one of the collar counties of Chicago. Downtown Harvard has a newly updated streetscape of perennial plants that the park dept maintains. There is a facebook page Harvard Monarch Pledge that has gathered 80 local gardeners from which the stewards were appointed. Harvard developed 5 new pollinator gardens last year, and hopes for more this year on city/ park/ church/ school/ HOA properties

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Systems Change

- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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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.).

500

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.)

300 youth and 200 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.

1

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.

city, school, park, community gardens

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

we have a garden at Community Health Partnership property in downtown Harvard

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

climate emergency

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?

park district personnel

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

donation of large metal butterfly sculpture

Selected Action Items

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.

county fair.jpg

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

we maintain the facebook page Harvard Monarch Pledge with 83 members. We had a booth at McHenry County Fair where 1,000's of residents viewed monarchs and learned how to establish their own monarch garden

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

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

We partnered with the Harvard Garden Club to share seed and plants. One of our stewards is President of the Club

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

20000

What species were collected or propagated?

common milkweed

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

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Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

We had 6 tables at the fair. They included monarch caterpillars, pupae and monarchs, info on how and what to plant for a pollinator garden, and free common milkweed seeds

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)

city pool where many people drop off swimmers

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

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.

.1

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

305 S Hutchinson St harvard il

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

Washington School principal and building and grounds superintendent

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? 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.

.01

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How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

The side of the school was a weedy mess. We cultivated, added horse manure, and planted natives

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

City of harvard

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

still under advisement

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

presented to city council. They are thinking about it

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