City of Harvard

Harvard, IL

Mayor Michael Kelly

Pledge Summary

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.
- 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

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

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

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number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

200

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.)

30

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.

Crosby Elementary School

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

our facebook page is available to everyone in the community

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

to add more monarch friendly plantings throughout the city

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?

Harvard Garden Club plants, seeds, sales, support

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

added 1 more garden at Crosby Elem School

Selected Action Items

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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 week 2024.jpg

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

Our facebook page is open to all and has a lot of traffic and sharing of natives https://www.facebook.com/groups/278500354395097

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.

2024 Mayors Monarch TOUR Marengo 1.jpg

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

2024 Mayors Monarch TOUR Marengo 2.jpg

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

We held a public tour of the gardens in Marengo and Union for Pollinator Week

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.

Started work on a grant to include gardens in Harvard's largest park, Milky Way Park, but stopped due to soccer field construction that had to happen first. Will continue grant work in 2025

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

Harvard Parks and Harvard Admin suggested the grant for Milky Way Park. We also worked with Harvard Garden Club

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.

Crosby new garden.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)

Crosby School Harvard 401 Herely Dr, Harvard

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

steward Kelly Garay who is also a teacher at the school

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.

.2

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

Milky Way Park

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

Harvard Parks, City of Harvard, Mayors Monarch Pledge volunteers, Harvard Garden Club

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

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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.

2

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)

0

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

We started to write the grant for this project, but were stymied by the construction of soccer fields, which needed to be done first. We will continue this effort in 2025

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

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

in subdivisions, near entrances

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

0

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.

0

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

This project also was stymied by a lack of new stewards to manage each plot

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

2024PollinatorWeek.jpg

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

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500

What species were collected or propagated?

Milkweed, aster, echinacea, false sunflower

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, Small Waters Education Center, MMP volunteers, WPPC

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

We distributed milkweed seeds in little coin envelopes to all who came

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