City of Harvard

Harvard, IL

volunteer pat lawlor

Pledge Summary

Harvard has been a part of the Mayors Monarch Pledge for about 3 years. The mayor and administrator in the city are very supportive. The plan is to use the gardeners gathered at our facebook page Harvard Monarch Pledge to find a steward for each new garden plot

Action Items Committed for 2025

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

- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- 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.
- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

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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.).

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.)

50

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.

Crosby school

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

any resident is able to see our public facebook page, the school is 70% Hispanic

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

add more monarch gardens to the 4 we already have

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?

the MMP website is useful, the Environmental Def have many resources

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

We had a public table at the county fair that had over 10,000 visitors walking past our display

Selected Action Items

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

FFA Heather.jpg

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

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

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

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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.

MMP 20.jpg

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

MMP 16.jpg

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

MMP Great seed event.jpg

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

https://www.facebook.com/groups/278500354395097 Our facebook page has 92 members. We tabled at The Great Seed Event in our county and gave away 500 packets of native seed. We had a booth at the county fair with info, seeds and developing monarchs for 10,000 people to view

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.

MMP 27.jpg

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

MMP 26.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)

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Harvard has 5 demonstration gardens: 1 at city pool, 2 at schools, 1 on park land and 1 at city parking lot

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

park department workers, Harvard Garden Club, school groups, Environmental Defender members

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

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.

MMP 6.jpg

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

MMP 26.jpg

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

MMP 27.jpg

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

MMP 28.jpg

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

parking lot in downtown Harvard and parking lot at Crosby School

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

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100

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.

1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

The stewards maintain their garden weekly

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

We failed. The plan was to convert areas of a park to native gardens, but the ball fields and parking areas were not completed yet, so big equipment was still roaming about

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

none

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.

0

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.

Not done, due to sport fields and parking lot still being constructed

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.

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MMP 20.jpg

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

We partnered with Harvard Garden Club by purchasing their seedlings to plant in our gardens. We encouraged them to used native seed and their greenhouse to grow seedlings to sell at their annual plant sale, rather than just the annuals and perennials they normally have grown and sold

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

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

MMP Great seed event.jpg

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

We gave away 1,000 packets of native seeds from our native gardens to the people who attended the county wide Great Seed Event on Feb 1.

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

1500

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

Environmental Defenders of McHenry county

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.

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

bags of seeds done.jpg

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

We constructed a new native garden on water treatment land site, so water treatment staff from city, park staff, and water treatment staff could participate in that native garden. It was planted by our steward, but will be maintained by the water treatment and park staff

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

the staffs noted above weeded and watered the native plant sites

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