City of Harvard

Harvard, IL

Mayor Michael Kelly

Pledge Summary

The City of Harvard is a culturally diverse community of about 10,000 people with historical and present ties to the agricultural community in and around our City. We are proud to be a part of the Monarch Pledge and have annually grown our dedicated spaces to monarch and pollination conservation.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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.
- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.
- 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

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

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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.).

1000

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.)

100

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.

pool turnaround

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

55% of harvard is hispanic, so any community engagement includes communities of color

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

keep up the great demonstration gardens

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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

social media to spread the word, garden club

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

$1,500 donation from city of harvard for hardscape around pool turnaround garden

Selected Action Items

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.

new signs.jpg

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

butterfly weed seeds donated.jpg

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

common milkweed pods.jpg

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

Harvard Garden Club has monthly meetings and we attended several

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

new signs.jpg

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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We plant a hand painted sign at each of our monarch gardens

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.

end season card 2026.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)

This is the end of season card we sent to all stewards and supporters

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

city of harvard pool site, public works site, Harvard Garden Club

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

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

queen of the prairie.jpg

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

stages of monarch fair.jpg

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

free seedlings rows.jpg

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

The county fair is our biggest outreach venue. 10,000 of local residents attend, with their kids. We had 4 different monarch cages with different stages. We released 80 adult butterflies

How many plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

120

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

We planted our free seeds and then shared the pots of seedlings among our gardens and local gardeners

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

new signs.jpg

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

35

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

a sign at every one of 35 demo gardens

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Harvard Garden Club

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

in progress

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

2027

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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.

in progress

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

2027

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:

on city social media in June2026

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

Pollinator Week

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Pollinator Week.jpg

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.

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new hardscape harvard.jpg

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

rachel water dept.jpg

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

Harvard Public Works welcomed a pollinator garden on their site, and one of our stewards built and maintained. The City of Harvard donated $1,500 worth of hardscape with installation to ring the pool turnaround garden

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

Done. Hardscape installed in August

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