City of Johnston

Johnston, IA

Mayor Paula Dierenfeld

Pledge Summary

The City of Johnston is a suburb of Des Moines, the capital of Iowa. The City has 13 parks and several of them have native areas that are perfect for butterfly habitat. We have recently started the restoration of 150 acres of wetland/prairie area that will soon become a great natural area and monarch habitat.

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 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

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

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Paula Dierenfeld	2026	4/30/2026	Signatories
Mayor Paula Dierenfeld	2025	5/2/2025	Signatories
Mayor Paula Dierenfeld	2022	4/1/2022	

Action Items

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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.).

400

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.)

250

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.

.3

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.

parks

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

our parks are open to the public for anyone to use

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

to save the monarch butterfly and make our parks a place to enjoy by everyone in the community

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 webinars are very useful

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

We will be looking at future parks to provide natural native plantings that provide monarch pollinator areas and beautification of our parks

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Selected Action Items

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:

June 15, 2026

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Proclamation 2026.docx

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.

The city Parks & Recreation Department (10 people) were involved

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

Planted native pollinators in a park (.3 acres)

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)

New Beaver Creek Kayak Launch, 5250 Merle Hay Road

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

50

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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.

.3

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Milkweed areas will be cut down to 6" in early winter

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?

Parks & Recreation Department

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

complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

City ordinance only pertains to mowing or noxious weeds so native prairie areas or not covered in the ordinance. On city property and parks we are able to maintain them as needed.

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