Onalaska

Onalaska, WI

Mayor Kimberly Smith

Pledge Summary

Onalaska is a city in Wisconsin, located on the western boarder. We are nestled between the scenic bluffs of the driftless region and beautiful Lake Onalaska. Our city has approximately 19,000 people. We look forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat throughout our city.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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 or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Kimberly Smith	2023	3/30/2023	
Mayor Kimberly Smith	2022	4/25/2022	

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.).

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.)

unknown

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.

8.6

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 park land and right of ways

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

unknown

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

Improve Community Sustainability

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?

Unknown

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

We have learned a lot and have ideas to improve our community outreach in 2023.

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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:

06/27/22

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

monarch pledge.pdf

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.

Amended_Parks_Rec__Lib_6-27-22_Agenda__Minutes (1).pdf

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

Park, Recreation and Library Board, agenda item 7

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

The Board was open to exploring ideas to improve habitat including set aside no mow areas and identifying areas where plants that support pollinators could be added.

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)

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Various city parks and right of ways

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

City of Onalaska Park staff

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.

0.71

Launch, expand, or continue an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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

Onalaska City council and staff, Mississippi Valley Conservancy

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

In process

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

During 2022 the City dedicated 7.9 acres of city park land as 'no mow' to promote habitat. Additionally the city acquired over 60 acres of natural parklands in Savanah Oaks and an additional 15 acres at French Road. We look forward to additional plantings and management of our park areas to support our Monarchs and other pollinators.

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