City of Springfield

Springfield, IL

Mayor Misty Buscher

Pledge Summary

The City of Springfield is the capital of the great state of Illinois, with a population around 113,000. Springfield lies in a valley and plain near the Sangamon River, with its own Lake managed by City Water, Light & Power (CWLP). There are multiple public and private schools in Springfield. In an effort to be a more environmentally friendly city, Mayor Buscher of Springfield, IL has committed to helping the monarch butterfly (our state insect) and other pollinators by their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and completing the action steps necessary to do so.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Misty Buscher	2026	1/30/2026	
Mayor Misty Buscher	2025	1/31/2025	Signatories
Mayor Misty Buscher	2024	3/11/2024	Signatories
Mayor James Langfelder	2023	2/3/2023	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.).

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u595:v1.14.0.49966]

800

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.)

450

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.

0.5

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.

Extension of a community garden near the towns Lake.

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

By attending local events that are open to the community, where I am able to reach low income communities and communities of color.

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

Positive, they were wanting to help the monarch population.

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?

More free seed packets with variety beyond common.

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

The best efforts here are community outreach and seed dispersal. Its hard to maintain gardens of mass within an urban setting with no volunteers.

Selected Action Items

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u595:v1.14.0.49966]

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

EAF.jpg

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

Over 100 plants

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

250

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

The City of Springfield

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.

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)

Located at 200 E Lake Shore Dr. Springfield IL 62712

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

University of Illinois Extension

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.

0.5

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u595:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

garden.jpg

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

University of Illinois Extension

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

12

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

By planting nectar-producing plants indicated by the university to help them with their study of pollinators throughout the state.

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

PollinatorFest.jpg

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

300

What was the date of your festival?

11/09/2024

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

Public Works

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u595:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

The event was from 10 am - 2 pm, in the downtown area of the city with public transit and other accessibility options for all residents in the community. The event hosted more than just monarchs but other animals and insects, had a petting zoo and conservation area as well. Plants were given out as well as seeds, and residents were able to take home cut out flyers about conservation and the importance of pollinators.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u595:v1.14.0.49966]