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 2025

Communications and Convening

- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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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.).

250

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.)

175

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

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.

0

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

By attending community garden events in primarily communities of color

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

Wanting to help the Monarch Butterfly 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?

So far the best resources have been the milkweed seed packets

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

Nothing that I can think of

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Selected Action Items

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

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

EnosGarden2.jpg

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

EnosGarden3.jpg

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

The enos community garden, IEPA, City of Springfield, CWLP, and Department of Health

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Shared informationals, contacts and seeds with each group in hopes of getting the community to engage in efforts.

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.

eASRTHsTEWARDSHIP.jpg

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

EnosGarden1.jpg

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

5

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

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100

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

Enos Community Garden

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)

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?

CWLP

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.

0.35

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

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

Enos Community Garedn

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

5

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

I was able to obtain different types of milkweeds, including butterfly and swamp to add to the garden.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

This is a monarch waystation sign that we keep near the entrance of the garden.

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