City of Rolling Meadows

Rolling Meadows, IL

Mayor Lara Sanoica

Pledge Summary

The City of Rolling Meadows is a city roughly 20 miles Northwest of Chicago, IL with a population of approximately 25,000 residents. The city has an abundance of parks and public space. In addition to it's public spaces and parks, there are community gardens. These community gardens are plots of green space where residents can grow produce and flowers. The City of Rolling Meadows, Illinois has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' pledge and look forward to encouraging residents to plant more native plants and flowers giving our indigenous pollinators more to feed on.

Action Items Committed for 2023

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 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

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Lara Sanoica	2026	1/22/2026	
Mayor Lara Sanoica	2025	1/22/2025	Signatories
Mayor Lara Sanoica	2024	12/14/2023	Signatories
Mayor Lara Sanoica	2023	3/5/2023	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.).

24200

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.

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.

Natives and monarch supportive habitats are encouraged by the City to be planted in all landscaped locations. It is unknown exactly how many acres of new habitat has been created as many habitats exist on residential/private property that have not reported those habitats to the City.

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

The City has a diverse population and the Monarch Pledge has been taken into account with the formulation of the City's new Sustainability Plan which will involve and impact our diverse resident population and encourage involvement and participation in creating monarch habitats in their landscaped environments..

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

Environmental sustainability is a priority for the City and supporting the monarch population through thoughtful landscape planning is part of our sustainability efforts.

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 NWF website and portal has been a helpful resource.

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

The City established its first ever sustainability plan which incorporates monarch and pollinator conservation efforts.

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:

12/19/2023

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

Proclamation to be issued.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

DRAFT Monarch Proclamation.pdf

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

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

1b DRAFT Sustainability Plan 2023-11-16 v3.pdf

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

See below.

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.

At the City Council's next meeting, the City will adopt a new Sustainability Plan that includes Action L-6, "L-6. Rolling Meadows will explore options to support residential native landscaping and urban agriculture.," as well as Action L-8, "Rolling Meadows will create native and sustainable landscaping through municipal projects, with a special focus on gateways and business districts." Implementation will begin in 2024 after adoption of the Plan.

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

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

1b DRAFT Sustainability Plan 2023-11-16 v3.pdf

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

See below.

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.

At the City Council's next meeting, the City will adopt a new Sustainability Plan that includes Action L-9, "L-9. Rolling Meadows will implement natural and low-impact management practices for its landscapes, including integrated pest management strategies." Implementation will start after adoption in 2024.

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

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

1b DRAFT Sustainability Plan 2023-11-16 v3.pdf

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

At the City Council's next meeting, the City will adopt a new Sustainability Plan that includes Action L-8, "Rolling Meadows will create native and sustainable landscaping through municipal projects, with a special focus on gateways and business districts." Implementation will start after adoption in 2024.

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

0

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.

See above.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

See above.

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.

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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)

To be determined.

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

See past answers concerning the City's Sustainability Plan including achievement of this action step.

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

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Park Street Storm Sewer Signage.pdf

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).

See attached draft rendering and sign specification details. These informational signs highlight the importance of the monarch butterfly and milkweed in their habitations. The signs are being installed as part of the 2023 Park Street Storm Sewer project, which includes bioswale installations that transect a key residential neighborhood, shopping center, school, playfields, park, and Salt Creek (an important waterway).

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.

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

At the City Council's next meeting, the City will adopt a new Sustainability Plan that includes Action L-7, "Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of native and sustainable landscaping," as well as Action L-8, "Rolling Meadows will create native and

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sustainable landscaping through municipal projects, with a special focus on gateways and business districts." The Plan calls on community groups to participate in implementation, and outreach work will begin in 2024 after adoption of the Plan. In the interim, the City's primary gardening group is dedicated to prairie restoration including native planting of plants that support monarch populations. The pending adoption of the plan was highlighted on the front page of the December 7, 2023 Daily Herald, a major newspaper for Chicago suburbs. Individual members of these groups - primarily those who have worked on the City's two prairie restoration sites - sit on or attend meetings of the City's Environmental Committee, who was responsible for writing, reviewing, and recommending approval of the Plan to the City Council.

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.

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

At the City Council's next meeting, the City will adopt a new Sustainability Plan that includes Action L-7, "Rolling Meadows will raise community awareness of native and sustainable landscaping," as well as Action L-8, "Rolling Meadows will create native and sustainable landscaping through municipal projects, with a special focus on gateways and business districts." The Plan calls on community groups to participate in implementation, and outreach work will begin in 2024 after adoption of the Plan. In the interim, the City's primary gardening group is dedicated to prairie restoration including native planting of plants that support monarch populations. The pending adoption of the plan was highlighted on the front page of the December 7, 2023 Daily Herald, a major newspaper for Chicago suburbs.

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

See above. Individual members of these groups - primarily those who have worked on the City's two prairie restoration sites - sit on or attend meetings of the City's Environmental Committee, who was responsible for writing, reviewing, and recommending approval of the Plan to the City Council.

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.

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

See above. Individual members of these groups - primarily those who have worked on the City's two prairie restoration sites - sit on or attend meetings of the City's Environmental Committee, who was responsible for writing, reviewing, and recommending approval of the Plan to the City Council.

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