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 2024

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.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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Systems Change

- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 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.

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.).

100

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.)

60

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.

0.75

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.

New location is a public pond

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

No specific outreach to these communities in the City's 2024 pledge program.

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

The Mayors' Monarch Pledge is part of our Sustainability Plan and commitment to environmental issues.

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?

NWF should share more best practices and examples drawn from these annual report responses.

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

NA

Selected Action Items

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

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.

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

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

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

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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)

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

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.

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)

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

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.

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

What is the total acreage of land treated to remove invasive plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

Please describe the extent of revisions or maintenance to invasive species removal programs, as well as the practices or techniques used to remove the invasive plants.

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):

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Monarch Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

zSR0) Mayors' Monarch Pledge 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.

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

In Progress

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 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.

In Progress

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

The City is preparing comprehensive revisions to its landscape zoning & property maintenance requirements anticipated for introduction to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council in Q1-Q2 2025. These changes, when adopted, will meet this goal.

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

In Progress

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

In Progress

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In Progress

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

The City is preparing comprehensive revisions to its landscape zoning & property maintenance requirements anticipated for introduction to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council in Q1-Q2 2025. These changes, when adopted, will meet this goal.

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

In Progress

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 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.

In Progress

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

The City is preparing comprehensive revisions to its landscape zoning & property maintenance requirements anticipated for introduction to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council in Q1-Q2 2025. These changes, when adopted, will meet this goal.

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?

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City Public Works and Sustainability

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

(See attached for quantities; plants installed as seed.) This year, the City approved a project to modify its Kennedy Pond shoreline in order to replace 34,000 square feet of turf grass with native seed mixes including milkweed. The City's contract for the project includes three years of maintenance accomplished primarily through hand pulling, brush cutting, and methods other than herbicide application.

Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation’s Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

The City has an ongoing program with a local volunteer group including teachers who visit a prairie and creek annually.

How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2

Please list the names of the schools you are working with.

Rolling Meadows High School Willow Bend Elementary School

What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?

NA

How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field (e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).

60

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

Local environment committee.

How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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

What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?

The City and Park District engage in ongoing maintenance of these areas.

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.

Resolution NO. 24.R.82.pdf

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

Local Public Works and Sustainability entities within the City; ongoing

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

This year, the City approved a project to modify its Kennedy Pond shoreline in order to replace 34,000 square feet of turf grass with native seed mixes including milkweed. The City's contract for the project includes three years of maintenance accomplished primarily through hand pulling, brush cutting, and methods other than herbicide application.

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.

Resolution NO. 24.R.82.pdf

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

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City Public Works and Sustainability

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 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.

11/1/2024

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

While not an ongoing policy action, this year, the City approved a project to modify its Kennedy Pond shoreline in order to replace 34,000 square feet of turf grass with native seed mixes including milkweed. The City's contract for the project includes three years of maintenance accomplished primarily through hand pulling, brush cutting, and methods other than herbicide application. The City's goal is to expand this stewardship approach as a pilot to other public areas.

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