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 2025

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.
- Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)
- 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 developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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.
- 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).
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

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.
- 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.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit 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.

5

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

public spaces, and more.

Estimate is based on 0.5 acres of documented volunteer efforts plus an assumed 40% usage rate of 450 1oz native seed packages given away through an ongoing summer native seed giveaway at City Hall and local community events.

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 2025 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 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.

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

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

Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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)

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.

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.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

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?

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

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

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

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.

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

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:

4/8/2025

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Monarch Proclamation

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

MP) Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2025 NOT IN PACKET.docx

Launch or maintain a public communication effort to encourage residents to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods. (If you have community members who speak a language other than English, we encourage you to also communicate in that language; Champion Pledges must communicate in that language.)

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

size2982191.pdf

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

chrome_6ESUxo43PI.png

Please describe the methods of public communication below (e.g., printed materials, social media, print media).

See page 5 attached. This is a 3/4 page spread within the City's newsletter which is mailed to all households within the City. It advertised the importance of native plantings, especially to support monarch butterflies, as well as resources to buy native plants and support for the City's seed giveaway (see other action item).

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.

size2982191.pdf

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

450 1oz seed packages w/ 20 native flower species (including 3 milkweed variants) and 4 native grasses.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

0

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

Local Environmental Committee; Distributed at City events including Arbor/Earth Day, Sustainability Saturdays with community partners including the Rolling Meadows Library, and available at the City Hall Front Counter.

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

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

Ordinance No. 25.47.pdf

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

Local Environmental Committee; City Council

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

Complete

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.

Attached Ordinance was adopted September 10, 2025 and allows for native prairie landscapes to be maintained without a permit on residential property. (Commercial properties can do so through the City's generally applicable landscape plan process.)

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

NA

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

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

Ordinance No. 25.47.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Local Environmental Committee; City Council

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

Complete

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.

Attached Ordinance was adopted September 10, 2025 and allows for native prairie landscapes (including milkweed) to be maintained without a permit on residential property. (Commercial properties can do so through the City's generally applicable landscape plan process.)

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.

Ordinance No. 25.45.pdf

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

Local Environmental Committee; City Council

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

Complete

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.

September 10, 2025; The Ordinance requires at least 80% of plant materials to be native or naturalized to northeastern Illinois.

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

NA

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. Seeds are collected from the prairie and cultivated in the high school greenhouse for planting the following year.

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

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]

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.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u233:v1.14.0.49966]