City of Chicago Heights

Chicago Heights, IL

Mayor David Gonzalez

Pledge Summary

The City of Chicago Heights is a south suburban community of approximately 28,000 residents. The City is committed to a vision for implementing projects and programs for sustainability and green space initiatives that will provide immediate and long term benefits for our residents, businesses and community as a whole.

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.
- 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 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

- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u426:v1.14.0.49966]

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor David Gonzalez	2025	1/22/2025	
Mayor David Gonzalez	2023	3/17/2023	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.).

75

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.)

75 Adults

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.

Public space

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

Communications/community meetings.

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

To promote conservation and sustainability on public and private spaces.

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?

Resource materials.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u426:v1.14.0.49966]

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

Planting and implementation is based on several project areas under construction and will be contingent upon completion.

Selected Action Items

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)

Pending grant application for a garden.

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:

Pending at this time.

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.)

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

Narrative provided at ward meetings for possible conversion of vacant lot for planting; engaged local HS group to provide a plan for planting at City Hall.

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

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

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u426:v1.14.0.49966]

Engineering and urban forestry consultant collaborated on project plan for pollinator garden and habitat and exploring funding sources for implementation and construction.

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?

Urban forestry consultant, public works.

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.

Review of public planting spaces to develop the appropriate action plan to remove invasive species and preserve native planting. Fall 2024

Host or support a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the community to increase awareness, support community unity around a common mission, and/or create habitat for the monarch butterfly.

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

Pollinator Garden Plan.jpg

How many estimated individuals participated in your challenge? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 100).

48

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

Ward 1 alderman and residents, engineering team, forestry consultant, engineering. Attended ward meetings to share information on sustainability and planting, working to identify space and funding for Ward 1 for community pollinator garden; will continue to work with our forestry and community group to incorporate a food forest plan that would also be part of the pollinator garden plan.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u426:v1.14.0.49966]

When did this challenge take place?

March through December 2023

What is the total acreage of habitat created? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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

Please describe your challenge and the results.

Pending funds, .003 acres.

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.

Phase 1 2.8

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.

Review of public planting spaces to develop the appropriate action plan to remove invasive species and preserve native planting. Fall 2024

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u426:v1.14.0.49966]