City of Maple Grove

Maple Grove, MN

Mayor Mark Steffenson

Pledge Summary

The Mayor, City Council and city staff recognize the importance of the monarch butterfly and pollinators to a well-functioning ecosystem. The city has committed to take meaningful action to protect the monarch butterfly and encourages residents to make a difference by providing habitat for the monarch in locations where they live, work and play.

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 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.
- 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.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- 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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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Mark Steffenson	2023	3/21/2023	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.).

350

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.)

200 adults, 150 children

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.

15

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.

Primarily on city property. The Town Green large areas of pollinators. There are also significant amounts of native plantings around the public areas of the Arbor Lakes.

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

By creating community pollinator garden in a well visited public park. Pollinator information is also showcased and distributed during the city's Arbor Day Celebration, a well attended free event.

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

Informing residents of importance of pollinators while beautifying the city

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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?

There is excellent information available on the NWF website as well as the University of Minnesota Extension website. Information on pollinator garden design is hard to come by online.

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

We are just getting started on this commitment and are excited about future possibilities.

Selected Action Items

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.

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

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

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

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?

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

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

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)

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

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:

March 31, 2023

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

MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE DAY

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Attachment A - Proclamation Mayors Monarch Pledge Day.pdf

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.

City of Maple Grove press release - Mayor's Monarch Pledge 2023.pdf

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

Press Release ahead of the Mayor's proclamation. Additionally, the community was notified of our future plans of a community pollinator garden in the community newsletter.

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.

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Planning, design and implementation of the Community Pollinator Garden will be managed by the Maple Grove Arbor Committee, an 11 member group of volunteer residents appointed by the Mayor. Native milkweed will be very prevalent in the pollinator garden.

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.

Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff

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

Maple Grove recently received a grant to remove invasives and re-establish native prairie and flowers within the town green and around the Arbor Lakes. This work is underway.

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.

City Staff and Maple Grove Arbor Commitee

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

As mentioned above, the Maple Grove Arbor Committee was tasked with planning a community pollinator garden. The arbor Committee also manages the city 100+ acres of forest preserve which contains pockets of native native prairie, plants and flowers. Several of the committee members are also Master Gardeners.

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)

The pollinator garden will be located in Maple Grove's Central Park, the city's largest and most visited park. The garden is currently in the planning phase and will be implemented in spring, 2024.

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

Community Development staff, Parks staff, Maple Grove Arbor Committee, Parks and Recreation Board, and City Council.

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.

0.5

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.

100

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.

For the past 5 years, Maple Grove has actively combatted buckthorn within its Forest Preservation Area. The city was recently awarded a $50,000 grant from the state of Minnesota continue the treatment of buckthorn on this city-owned public land. The contractor chosen for this work is very conscientious of existing native plants, allowing them to thrive.

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