City of Carbondale, Illinois

Carbondale, IL

Mayor Pro Tempore Carolin Harvey

Pledge Summary

The vibrant City of Carbondale, Illinois rests amidst the natural wonder of Southern Illinois. Our community is free of pretense, embracing the great outdoors as readily as urban sophistication. Here, we are open to new ideas, experiences and cultures, so you are encouraged to both express yourself and be yourself, in all ways. Our community recognizes that human health depends on the health of biodiverse ecosystems that can better support the security and resiliency of food systems, healthy soil and air quality. With this pledge, the City of Carbondale is choosing to renew its commitment to assuring that pollinator-supportive landscaping and practices are prioritized in all current and future developments. Through our pledge, the City of Carbondale, Illinois commits to 1. Taking meaningful actions to protect the pollinators of Southern Illinois 2. Raising awareness about the decline of pollinators 3. Conducting review and revision of city code to encourage pollinator-supportive landscape on public and private land within City of Carbondale city limits 4. Evaluating and correcting operations and landscape maintenance practices that could have unintended and detrimental effects on pollinator species 5. Creating a community-driven “pollinator yards” pilot program to educate and support community members interested in learning how to plant pollinator-supportive landscape in their own yards.

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 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

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- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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 Carolin Harvey	2026	4/29/2026	
Mayor Carolin Harvey	2025	3/19/2025	
Mayor Carolin Harvey	2024	12/12/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Pro Tempore Carolin Harvey	2023	3/30/2023	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.).

42

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.)

4 youth and 38 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.

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6.42

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.

Residential yards, a house of worship, our Civic Center, and our high school

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

Through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program, we have been able to take a hard look at our municipal code, viewing it as not just policy that ~is~ but policy that has been ~made~ and policy that can be ~unmade~ to better support our community values. One such community value is protecting and encouraging pollinator-supportive landscaping in public and private spaces. This conversation engages folks of all backgrounds, with particular attention to reducing the source(s) of pollution that is felt disproportionately by members of our community who are folks of color and those who are experiencing poverty. This conversation is for folks of all ages. This conversation if for folks of all varieties of taste and experience. Our goal is to provide an avenue to pollinator-supportive landscaping for all.

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

Through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, we aim to: reduce the source of pollution that is felt disproportionately by our most vulnerable (traditional lawncare), increase bioinfiltration, decrease volatile stormwater events, increase fodder for our pollinator species, improve support of local biodiversity, and align our municipal code to not only support, but encourage pollinator-supportive landscaping as a default.

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?

At this time, we are not familiar with the Mayors' Monarch Pledge specific resources available. However, we have been busy! This past year we partnered with the University of Illinois Extension in their design of illinoispollinators.org which is providing critical education and design assistance to our community members in light of our Spring 2023 code improvements.

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

This past year, our community successfully realigned our community values and our municipal code surrounding pollinator-supportive landscaping. On April 25, 2023, the Carbondale City Council passed an Ordinance Amending Titles 15 and 11 of the Carbondale Revised Code to Support and Encourage Pollinator-supportive Landscaping across the city (PC 23-08). Prior to these text amendments, the code surrounding

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pollinator-supportive landscaping was vague at best and did not provide protection for community members who wanted to install pollinator-supportive landscaping on personal or public property. This has led to community confusion and at worst, instances in which community members had to tear out landscaping that was deemed “not in compliance” by staff who are no longer with the city. Our Spring 2023 code improvements aimed to align the code with what folks are already doing, ensuring that no one is “not in compliance” with guiding policies that are meant to represent our community.

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 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.

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?

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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).

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?

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.

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?

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 an effort to change municipal planting ordinances and practices to include more native milkweed and native nectar producing plants at city properties.

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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.

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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

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incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

March 28th, 2023

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

A Proclamation for Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

A Proclamation for Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day, 2023-03-28.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.

Pollinator Supportive Landscaping Webpage.png

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

We have created our first ever city-wide Sustainability Page, which features a section dedicated to our pollinator-supportive landscape programming. Our staff were able to collaborate with the University of Illinois Extension in their creation of illinoispollinators.org which is linked directly on this page. In addition, we created a short video guide to starting your own pollinator-supportive landscape (why to do it, how the city supports you, and what tools are available). Our webpage can be found here: https://www.explorecarbondale.com/900/Pollinator-Supportive-Landscaping

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

Family Eco-Fest 2023.png

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How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

50

What was the date of your festival?

September 30th, 2023

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

Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, National Science Foundation, SIU River Region Sustainability: Noyce Master Teaching Fellows Program, Alto Vineyards

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

The City of Carbondale promoted and volunteered at the Second Annual Family Eco Festival, which was hosted by the Teachers with the Southern Illinois University River Region Master Teaching Fellows Program. This family-fun event was held at Alto Vineyards, as a fundraiser for Innovations in STEM Education. The event was interdisciplinary, with specific focus on hands-on science stations. Everything from tardigrades and microscopes, eco-arts and crafts, solar eclipse activities, and environmental education. This event was open and accessible to all, made possible by volunteers. This event highlighted the work of Murphysboro Middle School educator April Bartnick's students Roots & Shoots Project titled "Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Community Outreach". The Murphysboro students demonstrated a "commitment to the community by being role models and educating others about pollinator habitat restoration and the endangered species status of the monarch butterfly population." In her application, Ms. Bartnick shared, "A final goal is for my classroom to make a pledge to the Illinois Monarch Project to help with monarch butterfly conservation goals. NGSS Standards: MS-LS2-4. Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations. Science and Engineering Practices. Engaging in Argument from Evidence Disciplinary Core Ideas. LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience. Ecosystems are dynamic in nature; their characteristics can vary over time. Disruptions to any physical or biological component of an ecosystem can lead to shifts in all its populations. Crosscutting Concepts. Stability and Change. Small changes in one part of a system might cause large changes in another part."

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.

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Attachment B - Sustainability Commission Memorandum Mayors' Monarch Pledge.pdf

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

PC 23-08 Staff Report.pdf

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

Attachment A - PYPP Graphic.pdf

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

Attachment D - City Council Resolution Mayors' Monarch Pledge.pdf

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

Attachment F - Title 15 Proposed Text Amendments Pollinator-Supportive Landscaping (Short) (1).pdf

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

Attachment G - Title 11 Proposed Text Amendments Pollinator-supportive Landscaping.pdf

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

Ordinance - Amending Sections 15-4.1, 11.4, 11-4.4, and 1-6 Pollinator-supportive Landscaping.pdf

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

The Carbondale Sustainability Commission, The University of Illinois Extension, the Carbondale Planning Commission

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

Complete (Please take a look at our video guide for an introduction https://www.explorecarbondale.com/900/Pollinator-Supportive-Landscaping)

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

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below.

April 25th, 2023

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