# City of Carbondale, Illinois

Carbondale, IL

Mayor 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 2024

### Systems Change

- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- 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.
- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.
- 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.

### Communications and Convening

- Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create

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monarch habitat.
- 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.)
- Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.
- 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.

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

## 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 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

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

The Carbondale Sustainability Commission

**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?**

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Best practices for municipal code

**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.).**

30

**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.**

Resident yards

**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, 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.

**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.)**

20

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

We are leveraging creative partnerships across our community to increase implementation.

## 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.**

https://www.explorecarbondale.com/901/Community-Gardens Forestry partnership with the Evergreen Garden Club to manage Turley Park butterfly garden.

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## 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).**

https://www.explorecarbondale.com/900/Pollinator-Supportive-Landscaping Continued social media postings and video content encouraging folks to transform their lawns to pollinator-supportive landscaping.

## 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.**

Planning staff encourage the planting of pollinator-supportive landscaping when conducting site plan review alongside the Development Assistance Committee.

## 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)**

Turley Park

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

Evergreen Garden Club

**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.**

.15

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## 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.**

N/A

**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.**

We have not made progress in this area.

## Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

Park District

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

In Progress: the City has hired Chris Benda "the Illinois Botanizer" to conduct an inventory of species found on city properties, especially city parks. This inventory will inform the Parks Master Plan that is currently in development. We are unsure when the Parks plan will be complete.

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

In progress

## Create a community-driven educational conservation strategy, initiative, or practice that focuses on and benefits local, underserved residents.

**Please describe the process to create the strategy , the strategy goals and content, and/or results of implementation. Please also identify who was engaged in this process, what partnerships were established, and how you engaged these groups. Provide a link, if possible.**

We partnered to host the 3rd Family Eco Festival https://www.wsiu.org/community-calendar/event/3rd-annual-family-eco-festival-06-03-2024-10-50-29 (graphic found at link) This event is free to all and open to the public. Families and folks of all ages learn about conservation efforts and why they're important, regardless of income level.

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## 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.

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

Creation of City of Carbondale Parks Department.

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

Carbondale Park District, Green Earth Inc., Evergreen Garden Club, Civic Center Manager

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

In progress

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

Development Assistance Committee, Sustainability Commission

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

Planners within the Community Development Department proactively recommend native species, and at the very least pollinator-supportive species when reviewing the landscape plans submitted to the Development Assistance Committee for site plan review.

## 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.

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

In Progress - we have a newly hired Parks Director, and are currently in transition surrounding landscape maintenance.

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

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Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission

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

In progress

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

**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.**

By continuing to encourage community members to transform their traditional yards/lawns to gardens, we decrease the likelihood that they will use pesticides and herbicides in order to maintain a traditional lawn.

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

Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, Evergreen Garden Club

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

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

In progress

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

Planning Commission, Sustainability Commission, Neighborhood Alliance Group

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

We seek City Council directive to propose text amendments, however there has been pushback surrounding perceived safety.

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## 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.

**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?**

June 3rd, 2024

**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).**

We partnered to host the 3rd Family Eco Festival https://www.wsiu.org/community-calendar/event/3rd-annual-family-eco-festival-06-03-2024-10-50-29 (graphic found at link) This event is free to all and open to the public. Families and folks of all ages learn about conservation efforts and why they're important, regardless of income level.

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