City of Whiting

Whiting, IN

Mayor Steve Spebar

Pledge Summary

Whiting, Indiana is home to an estimated 5,000 people and is located on the shore of beautiful Lake Michigan. The city is in the heart of one of the most diverse ecological areas in the state boasting numerous wetlands and smaller lakes in nearby communities. Despite the beautiful setting, Whiting sits in the middle of a highly industrialized area. Whiting is host to the largest oil refinery in the Midwest, British Petroleum. This industrial area poses environmental challenges of all kinds. Last fall our public park was planted with thousands of native plants, including milkweed for our Monarchs. Plans are for additional plantings this year. Mayor Spebar has signed on to the Monarch Pledge and promises to support the planting of native pollinator plants throughout the city.

Action Items Committed for 2024

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.

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Steve Spebar	2024	2/23/2024	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

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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.)

25

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 public spaces, and more.

Whiting City Park, Whiting Public Library, Forsythe Square, and private residences

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

We had a an Earth Day Celebration with a free plant give away and pollinator seeds that kids could plant. We have quite a few Spanish speaking citizens so we had a translator available.

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

We started a sustainability group (WREN-Whiting Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors). The Monarch Pledge was one idea to increase the number or native plants in our city, to educate people about the function of native plants, and to add beauty to our public places. Ones members in the group who promoted the idea.

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?

We had no funding for this. We went to the Mayor to ask for money to purchase the plants and the signage. The library staff helped by having staff there to read to the kids and they brought the bookmobile. The Whiting parks staff helped people sign up for trees. The people have been most helpful. Yearly funding to carry on this project would be most helpful.

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

Along with installing the native beds in Whiting-Robertsdale, we also maintain them.

Selected Action Items

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:

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

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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

Whiting Park Garden 005.JPG

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

053.JPG

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 garden is located in Whiting Lakefront Park at 1500 Park Road, Whiting, IN 46394

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

The mayor, Whiting Parks Department, and WREN (Whiting-Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors.

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.

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0.45

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.

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 001.JPG

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

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 002.JPG

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

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 003.JPG

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

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 004.JPG

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

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 007.JPG

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

WREN Earth Day Celebration 2024 010.JPG

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

100 plants

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

75

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

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We partnered with the Mayor, Whiting Park Department, Whiting Public Library, WREN (Whiting-Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors) and the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce.

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMG_1334.JPG

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

We partnered with the Mayor, Whiting Parks Department, Whiting Public Library, Wild Ones Gibson Woods and the WREN (Whiting-Robertsdale Environmental Neighbors).

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

50

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Please describe your effort in completing this action.

This mixed native plant garden was put in during the summer of 2023. Our WREN group met early in the spring of 2024 to clean up the garden and we maintained it all summer. We also added more native plants to the garden.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

054.JPG

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

057.JPG

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

Information for Plant Tags_Whiting Library 2024.pdf

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

33

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

We purchased 33 plant signs to be placed at the native garden of the Whiting Public Library located at 1735 Oliver Street in Whiting Indiana. The signs have the name of the plant, what the plant is a host for, and a color photo of the plant. Mayor Spebar assisted with funding for purchasing the signage. A company in Whiting, Region Signs, produced the signs.

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