City of Versailles

Versailles, MO

Mayor Jamie Morrow

Pledge Summary

The City of Versailles is a small, close-knit rural community and the county seat of Morgan County, with a population of roughly 2,539 residents. Known as a gateway to the Lake of the Ozarks region, Versailles combines a rich history dating back to the 1800s with a strong sense of community pride, local traditions, and family-oriented living. The city offers parks, schools, local businesses, and community events that reflect its commitment to quality of life and stewardship of its natural surroundings. The Versailles community recognizes the importance of protecting natural resources and enhancing environmental sustainability. As part of this commitment, the city and its residents are increasingly engaged in efforts to support monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Through habitat restoration, native plantings, public education, and community partnerships, Versailles is working to create and maintain pollinator-friendly spaces that contribute to biodiversity, strengthen ecosystems, and promote environmental awareness for future generations.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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.
- 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

- 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.

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Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jamie Morrow	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor Jamie Morrow	2024	2/26/2024	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 number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

5000

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.)

2750

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.

1

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.

City of Versailles Memorial Park, Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners Community Garden, Individual Homes

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

The Versailles Memorial Park (where the City of Versailles pollinator garden is located) is in an area of town that is lower income and it is a children centered garden where anyone can visit and take part in free activities.

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

The urge to help the environment, the want and need to engage children in the importance of butterflies and all pollinators in the creation of foods we eat, and pretty plants we enjoy.

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?

Resources that have been most helpful were participating community donors, City of Versailles, Versailles Community Betterment and Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners. I would like to see more community members join these committees and groups in an effort to meet more goals. Facebook and Morgan County Statesman newspaper will be great for engagement.

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

This project has been so wonderful. To see something so beautiful and sweet rise from the rubble has been more than heartwarming. To see community members come together to make a great space for children and adults to learn and enjoy nature as well as help preserve the Monarch has been a vision for the ages.

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:

03-10-2026

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

Mayors Monarch Pledge Days

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Versailles Mayors Monarch Pledge Proclamation.jpg

Engage with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.

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

Newspaper Clipping.jpg

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

Workers.jpg

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

Workers 2.jpg

Please describe the groups you engaged with and how you engaged with these groups below.

City of Versailles has collaborated with the Versailles Community Betterment Committee along with the Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners group of our area. These groups have helped plant the pollinator area at the Discovery Garden located inside the Versailles Memorial Park.

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.

City of Versailles has collaborated with the Versailles Community Betterment Committee along with the Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners group of our area. These groups have helped plant the pollinator area at the Discovery Garden located inside the Versailles Memorial Park.

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

City of Versailles Park Superintendent David Vogt gave permission and fully supported the creation of a pollinator area at Versailles Memorial Park. Maintenance will be shared by the Versailles Parks Department and the Versailles Community Betterment Committee.

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.

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Versailles Community Betterment Committee, Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners, Zimmermans produce and greenhouse, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, Trees.com

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

Versailles Community Betterment Committee and Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners volunteers did all of the work in reimagining the Memorial Park and the addition of the pollinator garden. Zimmermans, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, trees.com and several other plant and supply stores along with local citizens donated plants, gravel, mulch and more.

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.

City of Versailles City Clerk Libby Webb, Mayor Jamie Morrow, Financial Officer Brandi Stone and Park Supt. David Vogt were all members of the "Discovery Garden" committee. This committee solicited donations, collaborated meetings and build days and marked out the project on paper until it was brought to fruition.

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)

Memorial Park located at the corner of S. Fisher and E. Jasper Streets. This located is related to the culturable significance of the monarch in that there used to be a dilapidated building there. The property has been transformed, as a caterpillar into a butterfly, into a beautiful childrens garden and pollinator area.

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

City of Versailles, Versailles Community Betterment, Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners

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.

.25

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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.

Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

Pollinators 2.jpg

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

Pollinators.jpg

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

City of Versailles, Versailles Community Betterment, Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners

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

250

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

City of Versailles provided the land and meeting space along with support, Versailles Community Betterment did most of the hard work, planning, planting and soliciting for donations of plants and supplies. Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners gave advice on placement of plants and care of plants along with some planting.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Pollinator Garden.jpg

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

3

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

Signs were made locally and describe that the areas specified are Monarch and pollinator friendly.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Versailles Mayors Monarch Pledge Proclamation.jpg

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

City of Versailles partnered with the Morgan County Statesman to make sure the coverage of the March 10, 2026 Board of Aldermen meeting included urging citizens to create their own pollinator gardens. It was also posted on the City Hall Facebook page.

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

Complete

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.

A proclamation was introduced 3-10-2026.

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

There will most likely be no ordinance passed on this topic, but it is mentioned publicly.

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