City of Riverdale

Riverdale, IA

Mayor Anthony Heddlesten

Pledge Summary

We removed all of the non-native plants in our parks in 2021 and 2022 and replaced them all with native species. We have two registered monarch way stations with Monarch Watch. We also recently passed an ordinance and set up a program for people to have mow-less May, pollinator lawn spaces, and native prairie lawn spaces without getting fines for tall grass/weeds.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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.
- Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- 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.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Anthony Heddlesten	2024	3/20/2024	

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.).

500

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.)

150

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.

0.2

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.

We continue to maintain the areas at the parks, but we also added a new prairie space at Van Gundy Park.

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

The monarch areas are in each of our existing neighborhood parks now (we added the final one in our most low income area this year) although I wouldn't say it's necessarily a marginalized low income area.

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

Positive benefit to the environment, residents enjoy the space, reduced maintenance costs with native species.

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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?

I think the most useful thing would be grants for additional plants/seeds.

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

Nothing else to add at this time.

Selected Action Items

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.

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

city staff & council

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

we added a "mow less may" ordinance that allows for less mowing, prairie areas, and other native spaces.

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.

You can see the ordinance online, completed in 2023 or 2024 I believe.

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

https://www.riverdaleia.org/home/pages/ordinances

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

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city staff & council

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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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)

3

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

we have monarch waystation signs up at three parks.

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.

2 ac

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've continued to work on removing invasive species in our parks.

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

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

we have not had any local groups work with us this year.

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.

public works maintains monarch spaces throughout the community.

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

public works maintains monarch spaces throughout the community. we publish a newsletter that encourages applying for prairie, wildflower, and mow less areas.

Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

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

none

How many individuals were engaged in this effort? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only, e.g. 50).

0

Please describe the community art project that was implemented in your community and how it contributed to cultural awareness and recognition (e.g., number of art installations, type of art).

nothing occurred.

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)

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Volunteer square, our Mississippi River Trailheads, Van Gundy Park, and Bicentennial Park all have native planting areas.

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

City staff & scout groups have supported park works.

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.

2

Plant milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants along roadsides, medians, or public rights-of-way.

Where are the medians, roadsides and public rights-of-way? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible, or describe the location)

trailhead areas and along US 67 at Van Gundy Park

How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

100

What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants? Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.5

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

they are cleaned up each spring, one section is burned.

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?

staff maintains parks, mayor has a large native garden planting area

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

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100

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

continue supporting these efforts as a community

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?

riverdale heights elementary, city staff, all students of the school, quercus llc

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.

4/22/2021

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