City of North Kansas City

North Kansas City, MO

Mayor Bryant DeLong

Pledge Summary

The City of North Kansas City is located in the heart of the Kansas City metropolitan area, with a population of roughly 4,500 residents and just under 5 square miles. North Kansas City is home to several beautiful parks, with the flagship Macken Park being the largest. For almost 20 years North Kansas City has had the proud designation of Tree City USA. Mayor Delong, along with city council and staff have committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and look forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitats 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.
- 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.

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

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.
- 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 Bryant DeLong	2024	3/28/2024	Leadership Circle

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.).

1200

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.)

200

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.

1.0

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 have habitats located in our roadway islands and in our parks. We have encouraged residents to plant their own as well.

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

We are providing free information to all residents in our community through our city connections newsletter, that is send to every residence. Our monarch and pollinator habitat are in public and accessible spaces.

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

Our community has a special love for nature and preserving what we can in an urban setting. After discussion and input from our city council and residents, we wanted to help educate our residents, protect the Monarch butterfly and make a positive difference in their decline.

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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?

The most useful information came from the Missouri Department of Conservation. As well as information from other nature programs and their online resources. I would love to see content and graphics free to participants that we can incorporate into our communications.

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

This has been a rewarding and engaging process for our city and we look forward to building on our progress this year.

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:

March 19th

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

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayors Monarch Pledge Proclamation.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.

Wheel park pollinator garden.jpg

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

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Native Plants page.pdf

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

Social media graphic.jpg

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

Facebook post.jpg

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

We used our free resident newsletter to send out information to all residences in our city. We also have social media posts and signs around our pollinator habitat.

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.

We worked with our parks department and public works department. ALso our City Council.

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

We had several discussions about best practices for maintaining and mowing public spaces in a thoughtful and beneficial way. We are also in the process of developing a Native Plant policy to enact in our city ordinance.

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.

Wheel park pollinator garden.jpg

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

Wheel park, building.jpg

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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)

This is located outside of our Parks and Recreation building in the middle of our biking and roller skate path. the address is 1201 Clark Ferguson Dr, North Kansas City, MO 64116

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

We partnered with the Missouri Department of Conservation

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.

1

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.

This information was not tracked.

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 started removing Bradford Pear trees and replacing them with native, non-invasive trees. We are also working on updating this policy with our native plants policy.

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?

Missouri Department of Conservation.

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

in progress

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

We are working with a landscaping engineer and City Council to develop a Native Plant Policy that would include city owned spaces and requirement for development landscape, which will encourage use of milkweed. In city spaces we have already begun using milkweed in various areas.

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?

Missouri Department of Conservation.

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.

Our native Plant Policy, which is in progress, will set standards for the city to use in public and city owned spaces. A main goal of this policy will be native plants, including milkweed, where appropriate. City crews have already begun planting milkweed in city beds and islands.

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

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

island beds.jpg

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

island beds1.jpg

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

island beds2 .jpg

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

island beds3.jpg

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

The medians are located on Armour Road from Iron Street to Howell Street, North Kansas City 64116

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

30

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.

.03

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

These beds are weeded, watered and maintained multiple times a week all year. We replant milkweek as needed every spring.

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