City of Quasqueton

Quasqueton, IA

Mayor Joe Miller

Pledge Summary

Establish nature areas throughout town to include native plant species and especially milkweed. Educate citizens on areas and encourage community involvement at own residence as well as involvement with community events pertaining to pollinator areas.

Action Items Committed for 2024

Communications and Convening

- 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 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.

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.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- 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.

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

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Joe Miller	2026	2/5/2026	
Mayor Joe Miller	2025	2/17/2025	Signatories
Mayor Joe Miller	2024	3/30/2024	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.).

250

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.)

0

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.

flower beds, green space in the park along edges, community gardens., right of way

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

social media advertising on simple, cheap ways to establish nature/butterfly area. Resources on milkweed plants or wildflowers

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

Motivation still good, as looking into new areas to establish, and continue to grow already planted areas.

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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?

Local resident's knowledge, allowing them to maintain nature areas in right of ways. Monarch group resources not helpful to rural communities, but hopeful their resources will be available to our town soon.

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

Even conciencous moves on weed killers being implemented. Turning city owned mowed property into nature areas being considered.

Selected Action Items

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.

monarch post 2.jpg

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

monarch post 3.jpg

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

Sharing stories and resources on social media for the community and encouraging to plant monarch gardens. Mayor and council involvement shared to residents. Resources to property owners to start their own habitats in their flowerbeds. Areas already planted and being established around town on city owned property.

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

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

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garden club.jpg

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

Quasky's volunteer garden club chose butterfly plants this season to incorporate in city hall's flowerbed. Milkweed was also planted in the flowerbed and undisturbed.

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.

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

milkweed.jpg

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

The City's parks and public works used green space in the campground and removed the grass and established area of milkweed.

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

Establishing areas in green spaces cuts down on mowing for the city workers. Less herbicide is being applied to areas in the park. Natural herbicide was purchased and applied to areas still implemented with weed killer. Will continue to establish more unused green spaces within the community on city owned property.

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.

milkweed ember.jpg

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

milkweed tiny.jpg

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

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milkweed city hall.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)

Demonstration garden located at city hall flower bed. Front and center of town, in front of town hall. Near parking lot where all residents can view it. 113 N Water St, Quasqueton, IA.

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

City Clerk and her daughter planted the milkweed saplings.

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.

.01

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

Where is the monarch habitat located? (Please provide an address, if possible)

Quasqueton Diagonal location - still in progress

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

City workers. Council. Garden club. School kids.

What is the total acreage of land that has been converted? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 2 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

How many lots were converted to monarch habitat? Please limit your answer to only the number of lots in the answer field below (e.g., 3)

1

Please describe when the lots were converted to monarch habitat and the planned maintenance schedule.

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This vacant lot has not been established yet. It has been held up on legalities/property deed transfer issues. The plan is still to convert this city lot into a nature area.

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)

Right of ways throughout town have been left undisturbed to grow milkweed in resident's ditches. An area of interest in the spring will be the roadside area near the entrance of the campground.

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

0

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.

1

Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.

Ditches/Right of way areas will be maintained by nature and planting done by nature. The area of roadside near campground will be planted in the spring, and maintained seasonally.

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?

city public works and park departement

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.

purchased natural herbicide for areas still maintained with weed killer. will not be mowing the vacant lot once establish nature area. target date is spring 2025.

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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?

parks department, garden club

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.

no new shrubs or trees have been planted since the pledge. still encouraging milkweed in spaces available and community establishing areas on their own property.

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

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

parks and public works department

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.

reducing the use of herbicides. purchased natural herbicide to use in areas where weed killer still utilized. need to use other methods of weed prevention to eliminate use of herbicides. Its been parks and public works method of practice, so need to establish and implement new weed prevention/maintainence plan.

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.

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

milkweed love mayor.jpg

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

Mayor, Council member, City Clerk participated in this learning session provided and guided by Augie Bergstrom, executive director of the Monarch Research Project of Marion, Iowa.

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

The individuals listed above went throughout the town of Quasky and Augie advised areas in the town that would be suitable area to establish pollinator zones. He will keep us in mind for programs that would benefit our city and share resources when available. Augie advised practices and how to begin the establishing pollinator zones.

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.

Love garden milkweed plot.jpg

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

Council Member Orlan Love has an established milkweed plot near his garden

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

30

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Milkweed plot of >30 plants were maintained in garden. Some of those plants were transplanted in other areas of the garden as well as taken to other areas in town to transplant in the city's flowerbeds, or other organizations' flower beds.

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