City of Thornton

Thornton, CO

Mayor Jan Kulmann

Pledge Summary

Thornton, Colorado, is a City of approximately 140,000 residents in the north Denver metro area, running south to north paralleling the beautiful Colorado Front Range. Thornton Mayor Jan Kulmann is committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with the signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. She looks forward to continuing her engagement with residents in developing additional pollinator habitat throughout the City. To improve Monarch life cycle success, Mayor Kulmann has encouraged intentional maintenance practices designed for the restoration of pollinator habitat. These practices include reduction of pesticide use near milkweed in targeted locations and the innovative Naturally Thornton program, converting turfgrass into sustainable and native grasslands. In addition, Mayor Kulmann actively supports the citizen driven Monarch Fly Way initiative, which links City appropriate breeding habitat into a single unified habitat corridor, characterized by appropriate maintenance and public education.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

- 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

- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

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

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Jan Kulmann	2026	1/8/2026	
Mayor Jan Kulmann	2025	2/7/2025	Signatories
Mayor Jan Kulmann	2023	3/2/2023	Signatories
Mayor Jan Kulmann	2022	4/15/2022	

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Mayor Jan Kulmann	2021	2/17/2021

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.)

125

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

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.

None new this year

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

Monarch preservation was featured at the Dia de los Muertos celebration in Thornton. Our flyway signs are posted in each of the wards in the city.

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

We want to be a hospitable municipality for pollinators and a part of flyways and migration corridors for all kinds of animals.

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?

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We could use migration maps that would help explain Monarch migration routes and timeframes so that citizens can understand how far these little flyers go.

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

We plan to expand milkweed planting into prairie dog habitat.

Selected Action Items

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.

Thornton Monarch Ambassadors, Thornton Parks, People and Pollinators Action Network, Thornton Horticulture

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

The Parks department refrains from mowing riparian areas, greenways, and open spaces from May-October unless directed to for public safety. Thornton Horticulture received a grant from PPAN (People and Pollinators Action Network) to plant a pollinator garden along the flyway.

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?

Thornton Pollinator Ambassadors, Xerces Society, Thornton Parks

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.

Thornton is training its park staff in Integrated Pest Management. IPM uses least toxic solutions, pest and host identification, and action thresholds to limit pesticide use and exposures. With our sized operation we will always be training new staff, and so this action

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will never be "Complete". We do hope to have an established policy that minimizes pesticide use by 2028.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

Monarch sign Carpenter nov25.jpg

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

monarch sign Eastlake 2 nov25.jpg

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

Monarch sign Eastlake 3 nov25.jpg

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

monarch sign Fall Brook nov25.jpg

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

Monarch sign Grandview nov 25.jpg

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

monarch sign Riverdale nov 25.jpg

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

monarch sign Union Ditch nov25.jpg

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

9

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

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Our signs describe the habitat for monarch butterflies, and explain how the city is acting to protect these areas

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