

# City of Columbia, MO

Columbia, MO

Mayor Brian Treece

## Pledge Summary

Nestled between Kansas City, Mo and St. Louis, Mo, Columbia is a small college town with a big personality. Home to over 121,000 people Columbia is a friendly and welcoming community that prides itself on the many available outdoor activities including hiking, biking, wildlife watching, swimming, and more in parks and over 60 miles of trails. Mayor Treece and the City Council have committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge. The City looks forward to another year of engaging the community in creating more urban habitat for this iconic species.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### Communications and Convening

- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

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

### Systems Change

- 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.

## Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Barbara Buffaloe	2026	3/23/2026	
Mayor Brian Treece	2021	2/19/2021	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 (e.g., 50).**

100

**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." (Only allow numerical values.)**

majority adult

**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).**

29.8

**Where is your habitat being created? This may include residences (yards, containers, balconies, etc.), schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, culturally-significant locations, shared public spaces and common areas or parks.**

City 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?**

We are planning for future engagement programs through the Office of Sustainability.

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

It aligns with City projects, citizens support it, and the Pledge engages more people in City government through the monarch butterfly.

**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?**

Policy examples from other cities, case studies. More information and examples of how to integrate nature into City plans (comprehensive plan, Streets maintenance, etc.), guidance on how to best engage other city staff in the M4M pledge, tools that help cities quantify eco-benefits to people at a neighborhood level..

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

In my opinion, we have picked the low-hanging fruit and are now entering more challenging territory such as changing the minds, policies, and standard operating procedures of other less enthusiastic departments. Using the pledge to engage the public was fantastic but not as effective on other City departments. Some city staff actively worked against us signing the pledge because they were afraid of the changes to their work program that it may support. We will focus on maintaining what we have and creating psychological safety to engage other departments.

## Selected Action Items

### **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)**

The roadside pollinator program sites can be found citywide. Go to the roadside pollinator program webpage to search our interactive map for specific site locations.  
<https://www.como.gov/public-works/street-division/pollinator/>

**How many milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants were planted?**

20

**What is the total acreage of median and public right-of-way that has been planted with milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants?**

29.8

**Please describe the maintenance schedule for these planted areas.**

The City of Columbia, MO has hired an ecological services consultant to complete the work. The contract is for five years and will likely be extended until the majority of right-of-way acres maintained by Public Works are converted to native vegetation. The consultant stewards each site once per month beginning in the spring and ending in the fall. In addition to the active growing period, the consultant uses the winter months to complete invasive species control in drainage ditches within the City's right-of-way.

### **Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.**

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

two, neighborhood organizations

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

The City community conservationist developed planting plans and gathered funding sources to support the implementation of the neighborhood pollinator restoration projects. These groups have had a difficult time finding a local landscaper to undertake the job at a reasonable price.

**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 inter-departmental effort

**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.**

This action will likely be included in a procedural guide for city staff to implement sustainable land management practices. The creation of this internal guide is an inter-departmental effort through the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan implementation team, Good Stewards.