# City of Eaton Rapids

Eaton Rapids, MI

Mayor Paul Malewski

## Pledge Summary

The City of Eaton Rapids is located in central Michigan. We are a "bedroom community" of 5,200 residents. We are known as "The Island City." The downtown is completely surrounded by the Grand River, the longest river in our state and a mecca for wildlife and water enthusiasts. Our school system actively participates in several Earth Day events and every spring performs water husbandry events, which include water quality testing, river clean up, a turtle census and various other aquatic studies. For years the river went under utilized and the investment that our residents made was often tenuous. Today, there is a new awareness to preserve and defend our bountiful natural resources. The Monarch is indeed one of those. Royalty in all of its splendor yet delicate in its presentation. We must be their champion. Stewardship and husbandry and preservation so that they aren't just a picture in a book but a living thing to be experienced and to be held in esteem.

## Action Items Committed for 2021

### 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.
- 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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- 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.)

### Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.
- Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

### 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.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

## Past Pledge Archive

| Mayor Name | Program Year | Pledge Date | Achievement |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mayor Pam Colestock | 2026 | 3/10/2026 | |
| Mayor Pam Colestock | 2025 | 2/18/2025 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Pam Colestock | 2024 | 2/16/2024 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Pam Colestock | 2023 | 2/22/2023 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Pam Colestock | 2022 | 2/3/2022 | Leadership Circle |
| Mayor Paul Malewski | 2021 | 2/19/2021 | 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.).**

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.)**

400 youth 100 adults

**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

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**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.**

City Hall, Monarch Park, homes

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

The City of Eaton Rapids is classified as a low income community, the Mayors' Monarch Pledge is offering a low cost program to engage community members to channel their interest and to be a part of a greater group or program.

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

The Parks Development Sub-Committee was looking for a way to reach the community on a program level where anyone with interest could participate, be successful and feel a part of something big happening in our community.

**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?**

Having access to what other communities are doing to achieve their action items has been helpful. Some interactive tools such as info sheets, social media posts and coloring/activity pages would be great!

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

We are looking forward to a renewed pledge next year!

## 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.**

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

### Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

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

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

**Please describe your effort in completing this action.**

## 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?**

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

**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.**

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

## Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

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

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

**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.**

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

## 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:**

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April 26, 2021

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

Monarch Education and Awareness Month

**Upload a copy of your proclamation.**

Signed Proclamation.pdf

## Launch or maintain an outdoor education program(s) (e.g., at schools, after-school programs, community centers and groups) that builds awareness and creates habitat by engaging students, educators, and the community in planting native milkweed and pollinator-friendly native nectar plants (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats program and Monarch Mission curriculum).

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

Earth Day Printout.pdf

**What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? If you are involved with another National Wildlife Federation program, please mention that below. (Please include a link to the program, if possible)**

We partnered with our local elementary school to provide each student in that building (400 students in total) with an activity sheet/information sheet (find attached) and a packet of pollinator seed mix to be planted at their home.

**How many schools, community groups, leaders, or centers were engaged in this effort? How many of these collaborations and partnerships are "new"? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

1

**Please list the names of the schools you are working with.**

Lockwood Elementary

**What resources, if any, are you providing to educators?**

We provided them with a script to read to the students about the importance of pollinators and how to help support habitats for monarch butterflies.

**How many students and educators would you estimate are being reached? Please limit your answer to only number of adults and youths engaged in the answer field**

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**(e.g., 200 students and 20 educators).**

400 students 20 educators

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

The City of Eaton Rapids Parks Development Sub-Committee worked to create the materials and prepare the seed packets.

**How many acres of monarch and pollinator habitat have been planted through this effort? 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.**

.89

**What is the maintenance schedule to ensure planted habitat is maintained?**

We have a plan to follow up with teachers and students near the end of the school year to check in on how their gardens are growing and what they can expect to find in the coming months.

## Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

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

IMG-1434.jpg

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

IMG-1435.jpg

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

IMG-1436.jpg

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

IMG-1438.jpg

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

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IMG-1439.jpg

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

IMG-1441.jpg

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

IMG-1443.jpg

**How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

200

**How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

50

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

Parks Development Sub-Committee of the Quality of Life Board of the City of Eaton Rapids

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

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

744d7034-457a-46e0-9b41-cae06ca2eb29 (1).pdf

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

a11ad8cf-de35-4e6d-85f0-7f6bbb8c4d74 (1).pdf

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

Art Class Kit Picture.jpg

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

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Art Project Picture.png

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

City of Eaton Rapids Arts Council

**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).**

15

**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).**

The community art project in our community was part of our Virtual Art Class series that is planned and put on by the City of Eaton Rapids Arts Council. Each month a class is planned and streamed via Facebook Live and encourages community member to create along with us. As part of the May is Monarch Awareness Month in the City of Eaton Rapids, we painted rocks for our monarch gardens that had the butterfly on them. Also included in the kit was a pollinator seed mix to plant a garden and some materials about why pollinators are important along with how to offer water for butterflies in the wild.

## 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.**

Demo Garden Sign.pdf

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

Image 1.jpeg

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

Image 2.jpg

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

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Image 3.jpg

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

Image 4.jpeg

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

Image 5.jpeg

**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)**

City Hall 200 S. Main St. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

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

The Quality of Life Department and Parks Development Sub-Committee along with the Arts Council of the City of Eaton Rapids worked together.

**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.**

0

## Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

**How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)**

50

**What species were collected or propagated?**

Milkweed seeds and other native plants

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

Parks Development Sub-Committee of the Quality of Life Board

**Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.**

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During a plant and seed exchange, attendees were encouraged to join our efforts.

## 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.)

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

We used our monthly newsletter, flyers and social media to offer tips, communicate projects and distribute materials to assist in the creation and development of monarch and other pollinator insect habitats.

## Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.

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

2021 Adopt a Park.pdf

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

Grand Opening 1.jpg

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

Grand Opening.jpg

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

Park Dedication.pdf

**Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and associated opportunities to create monarch habitat.**

There is a new small homes development in Eaton Rapids. We worked with the developer to fund the creation of Monarch Park which was a vacant piece of land that is owned by the City. The developers funded butterfly houses, a picnic table, a bench and a little free library to make the space inviting and enjoyable.

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## Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

The 400 block of Haven St.

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

The City of Eaton Rapids, Eaton Rapids Parks Development Sub-Committee, Foresburg Group, and Realtors Association

**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.**

.2

**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.**

The lot was converted in Summer 2021. The space is on a mowing schedule and the Parks Development committee will continue to monitor and plant habitat friendly plants native to our area.

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