City of Eaton Rapids

Eaton Rapids, MI

Mayor Pam Colestock

Pledge Summary

The City of Eaton Rapids is a city of nearly 5,300 residents. We are committed to educating the community and providing examples of why and how monarch butterflies and pollinator insects play an important role in our environments health.

Action Items Committed for 2022

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.
- Engage with developers, planners, landscape architects, and other community leaders and organizers engaged in planning processes to identify opportunities to create monarch habitat.
- Create a community art project to enhance and promote monarch and pollinator conservation as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 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.
- 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).
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

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

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, Community Homes, Small potted planters around the City.

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 Mayor's Monarch Pledge is offering low cost programming to engage community member and their interests with a greater program.

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

The Parks & Recreation 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?

The overall ease of navigation and ability to see what other communities are doing to achieve their action items has helped us to achieve ours. Some interactive tools such as info sheets, social media outreach posts, and coloring/activity pages would be very helpful to help get the word out to our community.

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

We are looking forward to continuing our efforts and renewing our pledge next year!

Selected Action Items

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

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

Convert vacant lots to monarch habitat.

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

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

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.

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)

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

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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.

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.

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.

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

We have continued our efforts with the Small Home Community here in Eaton Rapids to enhance and maintain Monarch Park. The developers of the Small Home Community funded butterfly houses, picnic tables, a bench & Little Free Library to bring people back.

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

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).

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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 that had various pollinating insects 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.

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

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

200-250

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

45

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

Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee, Parks Recreation & Events Board of the City of Eaton Rapids

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

45

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 & Recreation Sub-Committee of the Parks, Recreation & Events Board

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

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During our annual plant/seed exchange, attendees were encouraged to join our effort.

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).

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)

For the 2nd year, we partnered with our local elementary school to provide each student in that building (400 students in total) with an activity sheet/information sheet about Monarch Butterflies 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 School

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

We provided the school with a script to read to their 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 (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 & Recreation 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

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(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.

0.89

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

Much like last year, we checked in with teachers and students near the end of the year to see how their gardens were growing and what they could expect to see in the coming months.

Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

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

1

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

Located in the planter of our bench garden at City Hall, 200 S Main St Eaton Rapids, MI Our sign was a very basic sign that explained the importance of habitats for pollinator insects. It explained what plants were planted in the box and what made them beneficial.

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.

City of Eaton Rapids - Parks, Recreation & Events Board City of Eaton Rapids - Arts Council City of Eaton Rapids - Park & Recreation Sub-Committee City of Eaton Rapids - Department of Public Works

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

The Director of Parks, Recreation & Events worked alongside the Director of Public Works to develop a mowing plan that limited contact with native plants along the side of the river allowing a natural Monarch Habitat to grow.

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

City of Eaton Rapids - Parks, Recreation & Events Board City of Eaton Rapids - Arts Council City of Eaton Rapids - Park & Recreation Sub-Committee

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

One of our board members for the Parks, Recreation & Events Board is a Master Gardener. We discussed all of our plans and coordinate with Emelia to determine which Action Items to focus on. Emelia's knowledge plays a crucial role in our efforts.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

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 Parks, Recreation & Events Department and the Parks & Recreation Sub Committee along with the City of Eaton Rapids Arts Council 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.

0.1

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