City of Warrensburg

Warrensburg, MO

Mayor Bruce Uhler

Pledge Summary

As Mayor of the City of Warrensburg, I recognize the vital role that monarch butterflies and other pollinators play in the health of our environment, economy, and quality of life. Monarch populations have declined significantly due to habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use, and the spread of invasive species. Cities have a unique opportunity to make a difference, and Warrensburg is committed to being part of the solution. Therefore, I, as Mayor of Warrensburg, pledge to take action to help save the monarch butterfly and support pollinators throughout our community. We pledge to: Eradicate invasive plant species, particularly at Lions Lake, working with our Parks and Recreation department, to ensure native plants can thrive and provide habitat for monarchs and other pollinators. An event was held on April 25, 2025, doing such actions. Educate and Engage the Community, to plant pollinator-friendly gardens and avoid harmful pesticides: Launch public education campaigns about the importance of pollinators and the threats they face, via the Citizens for Environmental Action organization, through their “Air B & Bees for Pollinators” program. This program was designed to create pollinator-friendly gardens in an urban setting by using native plants in the landscape to attract pollinators. Even a small garden can make a big difference! Pollinators have evolved with native plants, and most pollinators feed on specific plant species. Lead by Example: Incorporate pollinator conservation into city planning and public works projects. Host annual community volunteer events to remove invasive species at Lions Lake, other city parks and plant native pollinator habitat in its place. By signing the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge, the City of Warrensburg proudly joins cities across the country in committing to protect monarchs and other pollinators for generations to come. Together with focused efforts like the restoration of native habitat we will create a thriving ecosystem that benefits both wildlife and the people of Warrensburg.

Action Items Committed for 2025

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 community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing 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.)
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and

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influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly 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.

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.
- Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- 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 Bruce Uhler	2026	12/31/2025	
Mayor Bruce Uhler	2025	4/24/2025	Signatories

Action Items

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

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

This effort fits with the City of Warrensburg 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, Focus II (Community Pride and Interaction), Objective 4 (Identify and promote projects that enhance quality of life in Warrensburg), item 4b (Support and facilitate projects for Warrensburg Parks and Recreation, Warrensburg Arts Council, Historic Preservation Commission, and other city-appointed boards and commissions), and item 4c (Continue to seek environmentally sustainable solutions and approaches 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

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help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

We've only been actively trying to decide how we'll move forward with this project for a few months, so we've not used the resources in any significant way, but we look forward to doing so throughout this coming year.

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.).

30

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.

There are small areas of native plantings throughout Warrensburg, including in private yards, church yards, and on the University of Central Missouri campus.

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

We have yet to engage with this opportunity, but will be doing so this coming year.

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

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

We are looking forward to growing our native plantings and our community collaborations!

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.)

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

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We have not started on this yet, but it’s on our work plan for early spring.

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

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

0

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

We have not started on this yet, but it’s on our work plan for early spring. However, the county Master Gardeners have an annual sale, and often have native pollinator plants for sale.

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

0

Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).

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

We will work with the Citizens for Environmental Action, the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and NWF.

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

We will begin work on this in early spring 2026 and hope to have it complete by July 2026.

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

In progress

Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.

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

In progress

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

We will begin work on this in early spring 2026 and hope to have it completed by July 2026.

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

We will work with the Citizens for Environmental Action, the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and NWF.

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.

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

We have not started on this yet, but it's on our work plan for early spring.

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

We will work with staff from Warrensburg Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Community Development on potential updates to mowing and planting practices.

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.

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

We will begin work on this in early spring 2026 and hope to have it completed by July 2026.

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

We will work with the City's Energy and Sustainability Task Force, the Citizens for Environmental Action, and City staff from the Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works Departments.

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

In progress

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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:

We did not accomplish that this year, but we will do so in early spring 2026.

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

Warrensburg, MO MMP proclamation

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.

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

A local environmental group Citizens for Environmental Action (CEA) has maintained the Turkeyfoot Prairie on City owned land for many years. They manage the prairie, with assistance from Warrensburg Parks and Recreation staff, to keep it healthy and thriving for native pollinators, as well as a learning experience for local students. More information is available here: https://ceaburg.com/programsevents/ We are working with CEA to further coordinate our efforts in this area, as well as the bush honeysuckle remediation mentioned in another section of this report.

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

1, Citizens for Environmental Action.

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.

6.85

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.

In April and November of this year, a group of volunteers from the City's Energy and Sustainability Task Force, Warrensburg Parks and Recreation (WPR) staff, the Citizens for

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Environmental Action community group, and biology and natural science students from the University of Central Missouri began work to clear invasive bush honeysuckle from an area around one of our community's favorite places, Lions Lake. A brief training was held at the beginning of each work day. Volunteers used hand tools and staff used chain saws to remove larger plants, and we pulled smaller plants out by the roots, and left them to hang over other trees to die. The cut stumps were carefully treated with small amounts of Tordon. We plan to make this a recurring event every spring and fall at this location. Once small sapling removal is manageable in this area, we'll move to another WPR location and do the same thing.

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

November Honeysuckle Event (1).pdf

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

April Honeysuckle removal promo.jpg

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

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

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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.

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The Citizens for Environmental Action group has continued to promote their “Air B & Bees for Pollinators” program, which encourages and supports local residents to plant native pollinator plants on their property. For more information visit https://ceaburg.com/programsevents/. They also maintain a small patch of native prairie in our community, which has multiple native pollinator plants. Two of their members sit on the City’s Energy and Sustainability Task Force, and we often collaborate.

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