City of Carson City

Carson City, NV

Mayor of Carson City Lori Bagwell

Pledge Summary

Carson City, Nevada is the Capital City of Nevada and has a population of approximately 60,000. The City is located on the eastern edge of the Carson Range, a branch of the Sierra Nevada and is located just east of Lake Tahoe. Carson City is proud to be recognized as a Bee City USA, becoming the 76th in the Nation and 1st in the state in 2018. Through this designation from the Xerces Society, Carson City has pledged to prioritize pollinator conservation initiatives throughout the City, including promoting pollinator habitat creation and public education. Additionally, Carson City is unique by having an Open Space Division which manages over 7,000 acres of undeveloped natural areas in Carson City, including 11 miles of protected Carson River corridor that host native showy and narrow leaf milkweed populations. Mayor Bagwell of Carson City, Nevada has committed to saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with their signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging the public and developers in building more pollinator habitat throughout the city.

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 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

- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement

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Mayor Lori Bagwell	2026	3/30/2026	
Mayor of Carson City Lori Bagwell	2025	4/28/2025	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 (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

98

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.)

97

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.

0.5

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.

Monarch habitat has been created at two sites managed by the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department - Fuji Park and Fulstone Wetlands.

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

Youth volunteers from a local elementary school and Boys and Girls Club helped plant milkweed at Fuji Park and Fulstone Wetlands. The Boys and Girls Club serves a variety of students, including low income communities and communities of color. Additionally, Empire Elementary School is a Title 1 school that serves low income students, and has a higher population of students of color than other elementary schools in Carson City.

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

Carson City is a Bee City USA #76, the first in Nevada and 76th in the nation. Our commitment to being a Bee City USA is very important to Carson City, and has led us to creating a robust pollinator habitat and education program in the City. Carson holds the annual Pollinator Parade, hosts many educational opportunities for both students and

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adults, as well as creating numerous pollinator gardens, bee hotels and interpretive signage throughout our Parks and Open Space system. The Mayor's Monarch Pledge dovetails well with our ongoing pollinator conservation efforts. Particularly, monarch populations are declining rapidly, so actions from residents and municipalities is so critical to their population support.

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?

Pollinator garden planting resources have been very helpful towards creating sustainable pollinator habitat throughout Parks and Open Space. Webinars are also helpful resources to dive deeper into a variety of topics related to pollinator conservation. Lastly, social media toolkits for outreach and education would be useful to expand engagement with the community.

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

Carson City is brand new to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, so we are looking forward to a full year of work in 2026.

Selected Action Items

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:

June 5, 2025

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

Presentation of a proclamation recognizing June 5, 2025 as Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day.

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge Proclamation 2025.pdf

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

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

2

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What species were collected or propagated?

Showy Milkweed and Narrowleaf Milkweed

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

Eagle Valley Middle School

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

In August and September 2025, Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff wildland collected two milkweed species seeds from four Parks, Recreation & Open Space locations, including Silver Saddle Ranch, Carson River Park, and Mexican Ditch Trail. These seeds were provided to Amy Riddle, a teacher at Eagle Valley Middle School, for her students to grow in the school's greenhouse. The plants that survive will be planted at Riverview Park in 2026 as part of a larger restoration project there.

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

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

Carson City leadership, including the Mayor and Board of Supervisors have been critical to this effort.

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

Complete

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.

As part of our Bee City USA #76 program, Carson City has completed a Pollinator Plant List with over 100 native and locally adapted plants. This list is available on our website for residents. Additionally, Carson City requires that all developers choose 50% of their plant palette for the development from this list. This helps create pockets of pollinator habitat throughout the City. While this requirement is currently in practice, eventually is will be codified in Carson City's Development Standards under Carson City Municipal Code.

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.

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

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department; Carson City Planning Division

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

Staff from the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department have been working to collect milkweed seed, and identify locations for milkweed plantings. Additionally, two park and open space facilities have had milkweed plantings in 2025 as a result of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Additionally plantings are anticipated in 2026. Additionally, Carson City Planning helps with requiring developers plant pollinator friendly species from Carson City's approved list, which includes milkweed. As part of our Monarch Pledge, we hope to encourage developers to plant milkweed specifically to support monarch populations.

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)

0

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

Staff are currently in the production phase for a milkweed and pollinator habitat sign. Currently, staff are evaluating three locations to be the home of a future monarch education sign. Two locations are where milkweed was planted this fall (Fulstone Wetlands and Riverview Park) and the third location (Carson River Park) has a healthy stand of milkweed established. All three potential areas receive high visitation from the public. The content is currently being prepared, and the sign will focus on our efforts to increase monarch habitat, particularly our engaging with local students to make this happen. Additionally, content will include information on monarch biology, threats to the species, and what residents of Carson City can do to support the species and all pollinators. Since Carson City signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge mid-year, this task is still on-going and the sign will be placed in 2026.

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