City of Jefferson

Jefferson City, MO

Mayor Ron Fitzwater

Pledge Summary

The City of Jefferson, with a population of approximately 42,600, recognizes the critical importance of pollinators, including monarch butterflies, to our ecosystem. These essential species contribute significantly to the health of our environment by supporting biodiversity and aiding in the reproduction of plants through pollination. However, pollinator populations are declining at an alarming rate due to habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental pressures. In response to this pressing issue, the City of Jefferson is determined to take proactive measures to conserve and support pollinator habitats. our efforts include: Habitat Restoration: The City is expanding green spaces and establishing native planting zones to create a thriving environment for pollinators. This work includes planting milkweed and nectar-rich flowers that provide essential resources for monarch butterflies throughout their lifecycle. Public Education and Engagement: We are committed to involving the community through informational sessions, educational materials, and on-site signage. These efforts aim to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and highlight the ways residents can support conservation at home. Partnerships: The city will collaborate with local organizations, schools, and environmental groups to implement conservation initiatives that create long-lasting, positive impacts on pollinator populations. By taking these steps, the City of Jefferson strives to become a model for sustainable pollinator conservation. We invite all residents to join us in this important mission to protect monarch butterflies and other pollinators, ensuring a healthy, vibrant ecosystem for generations to come.

Action Items Committed for 2026

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 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.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.
- Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

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Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Ron Fitzwater	2026	1/9/2026	
Mayor Ron Fitzwater	2025	4/30/2025	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.).

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.)

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.

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.

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

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

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?

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

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.

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Date of Proclamation:

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

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.

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

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

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

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 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.

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