City of Aurora, MO

Aurora, MO

Mayor Tony Kennedy

Pledge Summary

The City of Aurora is a community in Southwest Missouri with a population of approximately 7,500. The City recognizes the ecological, educational, and aesthetic value of monarch and pollinator conservation. Mayor Kennedy of Aurora, MO has committed to efforts of saving the monarch butterfly and other pollinators with his signing of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and looks forward to engaging residents in building more pollinator habitat and native gardens within the community.

Action Items Committed for 2025

Communications and Convening

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

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- 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.
- Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.
- Display educational signage at monarch gardens and pollinator habitat.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Tony Kennedy	2025	5/23/2025	

Action Items

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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.).

300

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.)

75

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.

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.

Parks and near walking trails

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

Hosting events that are free to the public and providing information about the monarchs

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

Passionate community and park board members

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?

Documents

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

We hosted a kids coloring contest of the monarch butterfly and gave each participant a 3D monarch butterfly and documentation about their importance and life cycle.

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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.

Met with Street Department staff, parks department staff and park board members to discuss areas within the community on public property for ways to maintain and sustain existing habitat

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

Discussions regarding how staff will mow areas for habitat as well as how they will maintain them. Multiple meetings and discussions.

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.

City Parks Department. City Park Board. City Administration. Missouri Department of Conservation. Missouri Prairie Foundation

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

Discussions regarding grants for pollinator gardens and the intent to create such. Grant application submittal.

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.

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

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

City of Aurora Park Board, Recreation Center staff, City Manager

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).

200

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).

City Manager hosted a Monarch Butterfly Coloring Contest which was at the Aurora Park Board booth at a local craft fair event held at the Aurora Recreation Center. Coloring contest participants received a 3D monarch butterfly as well as educational information with coloring sheets.

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?

City Parks Department Staff and City of Aurora Park Board

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

0

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Regular maintenance of nectar-producing plants within City parks. This included seasonal flowers planted on the City Hall square, on the property of the City swimming pool and at

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White Park. Also maintained native grasses at Baldwin Park which is the largest park in the community.

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)

Oak Park which is centrally located within the community and heavily used by citizens.

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

City of Aurora Parks Department, City of Aurora Park Board

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

Host or support a monarch butterfly festival that is accessible to all residents in the community and promotes monarch and pollinator conservation, as well as cultural awareness and recognition.

How many estimated individuals attended the event? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field ((Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only), e.g. 500)

200

What was the date of your festival?

November 8, 2025

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

City of Aurora Park Board

Please describe the details of your monarch butterfly festival and how you ensured the event was accessible by all residents in the community (e.g., events, length, notable successes, outreach, location).

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Combined with community craft fair. Held in conjunction with a free community event held in an accessible building.

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).

Continued planning for 2026

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