City of West Chicago

West Chicago, IL

Mayor Ruben Pineda

Pledge Summary

West Chicago is a diverse, family-oriented community with a population of roughly 27,100. The City is located approximately 30 miles west of the City of Chicago, with a rich cultural mix and a proud heritage. Mayor Pineda's commitment to saving the monarch butterfly started in 2017 when he signed his first Mayor's Monarch Pledge. He looks forward to continuing efforts to educate the public on the importance of the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, and demonstrate how the community can help save them by planting native milkweed and other pollinator-friendly native nectar plants.

Action Items Committed for 2021

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.
- 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.)

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.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Daniel Bovey	2026	3/26/2026	
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2025	3/24/2025	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2023	4/28/2023	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2022	1/21/2022	Signatories
Mayor Ruben Pineda	2021	3/5/2021	Signatories

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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.).

12500

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.)

6,000 youth estimated, 6,500 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 parks, Residential yards, City Hall, Ball Seed

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

Not determined

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

The importance or monarchs and all pollinators in West Chicago

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?

People committed are the best resource.

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

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It is continuing and growing, despite event cancelations (key to reaching more people), due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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:

March 15, 2021

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

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

2021-P-0002 Signed Proclamation.pdf

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.)

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

Children attending Christine Tierney's presentation at Sonny Acres Farm.JPG

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

Printed City newsletter sent to every resident, social media, Twitter and Facebook, electronic distribution using email, articles on the City website found at https://westchicago.org/environmental-stewardship/pollinator-programs/ Residents involved to save monarch butterflies: https://westchicago.org/news/west-chicago-resident-provides-information-on-raising-and-releasing-monarch-butterflies-at-sonny-acres/

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

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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 parking lot 475 Main Street, Reed Keppler Park (West Chicago Park District) 201 West National Street

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

West Chicago Environmental Commission, City of West Chicago Public Works, West Chicago Park District

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.

.01

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 of West Chicago Public Works, West Chicago Park District

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

80

Please describe your effort in completing this action.

Maintenance of City and Park District plantings continued in 2021. The park district had to replant many milkweed plants in 2021 due to aphids. The Maintenance Director found a simple and effective solution on line using Dawn dish soap. West Chicago Park District also added and is maintaining a 2.5 Acre solar field The Solar Energy Project began in 2018 with a focus on sustainability. West Chicago Park District partnered with Trane Technologies. The project utilizes idle land and will in turn reduce the cost of utilities. Solar panels have been installed on the West side of ZONE250 inside Reed-Keppler Park. The 862 kW Grid-Interactive Photovoltiak system will produce 1,150,000 kWh annually helping to offset costs of 84% of energy used by the ARC Center and Zone 250 per year and will save the District approximately one million dollars over the 20 year commitment with Trane Technologies. There 2.5 acre filed has been planted with pollinator plantings

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